# THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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## THE WEEK.

### MONDAY, 3RD JUNE.

THERE WAS LATELY an interesting municipal case heard before the High Court of England, the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Lush presiding. The case was this :

Some ratepayers at Sunderland disputed the allowance ont of the Borough Fund of the expenses attendant on the visit of General Grant to the town on the occasion of the opening of a new Free Library under the Public Libraries Act. The Corporation, desirous of giving *eclat* to the opening had invited General Grant, who happened to be visting in the neighbourhood to attend on the occasion, which he kindly assented to do; and, though the Mayor gave a luncheon at his own expense, there were a variety of expenses incurred on the occasion—for the erection of barriers, for the ringing of bells, for the hiring of a hall in which to receive the General, for the hire of a special train in which to convey him, and, lastly, and chiefly, for the exhibition of fireworks, which came to about £100; and these expenses had been charged upon the Borough Fund, which was made up partly out of the borough property and partly out of a rate. The total amount of the expenses charged was £388, which was about £100 for fireworks, £7 7s. for the hire of the hall, £13 for the special trains, &c. The Town Clerk made an affidavit to show that a sum of not above £42 was incurred on account of the General's visit—that is the special train, the barriers and the ringing of bells, &c. and that the expenses were incurred for the benefit of the inhabitants, especially as the town and port of Sunderland had a great trade with America, and it was, therefore, for their advantage to cultivate relation of amity with the United States. It appeared that some members of the Council objected to the defraying of these expenses out of the Borough Fund, and that the Town Clerk was appealed to and he said he could not answer as to the lawfulness of the course proposed. There was a surplus, but then it was partly made up out of a rate. The Finance Committee came to a resolution to allow the expenses; but the dissentient rate-payers came to this Court, to bring the resolution before it with a view to its being quashed as illegal.

Mr. Crompton appeared for the Corporation in opposition to the application; Mr. G. Bruce appeared for the rate-payers.

It was urged by the counsel for the Corporation that these expenses were really for the benefit of the town; but

The Lord Chief Justice said,—I am not so sure of that. I do not see that it was for the benefit of the town to invite General Grant. No doubt it was a pleasant thing for the Town Council, who received the General and had the pleasure of his society; but I do not see how it was for the benefit of the town at large. We must determine the matter with reference to the principle. It must be looked at as if there was no surplus and as if the Corporation were going to impose a rate for the purpose, for that was made up partly out of the rates. A rate can only be imposed for certain purposes defined in the Municipal Corporations Act, and the power to apply a "surplus of the Borough Fund to purposes for the benefit of the town," only applies to a surplus arising from the borough property alone, unaided by rates; so that, even assuming the purposes to be for the benefit of the borough, the provision in the Act would not be applicable.

Mr. Justice Lush.—The provision only applies where there is no rate, and where the Borough Fund without a rate is sufficient; but here that was not so, for a rate was imposed.

It was urged by the counsel for the Corporation, that upon this view the provision would not be applicable in any case where a rate is made.

The Lord Chief Justice.—Nor is it. It is only applicable where no rate is necessary.

Mr. Justice Lush.—Clearly so.

The Lord Chief Justice—The Municipal Corporations Act only authorizes taxation of the inhabitants for certain specific purposes, which do not include such expenses as these; and the power to apply a surplus to purposes for the benefit of the inhabitants, only applies to a surplus independently of the rates.

It was urged by the counsel for the Corporation that if this were so, the provision would hardly ever be applicable at all; but as to this.

The Lord Chief Justice said some borough have a large amount of property.

Mr, Justice Lush.—Some never need to make a rate at all.

In the result, the Court said that on this ground alone the application must be acceded to; but if it had been necessary to determine the case on the question whether these expenses were for the "benefit of the inhabitants," they would have had no hesitation in deciding that they were not so, especially as to the expenses incurred for fire works.

Consequently there was a rule for *certiorari* to bring up the resolution.

THE GOLOS, a Rusian paper, was suspended for publishing an article containing the following passage: —"England, through her cunning craftiness, the deep laid schemes of her Prime Minister, Lord Beaconsfield, and the paltry expenditure of £6,000,000 and without shedding a single drop of blood, has gained a greater victory than Russia has by sacrificing hundreds of thousands of men and milliards of money." The editor had to pay 2,000 roubles, and was forced to resign his post. On the re-appearance of this Russian organ, it was under the management of an entirely new editorial staff who put forth totally different views.

COL. MACDONALD, Director of Public Instruction, in his last annual report, says: "Much mischief is done in the elementary and middle classes of many schools in various parts of the presidency by the employment, as English teachers, of men who have passed for the fourth and fifth grades but whose knowledge of English is so limited that they cannot speak half a dozen consecutive sentences correctly. It is to be hoped that by degrees these inferior teachers, will be got rid of." This remark applies equally well to the other provinces.

THE GERMANS do not seem to think much of the efficiency of the Native Indian troops, but it is universally admitted, says a German writer, that if England succeeds in organizing Native armies competent to cope with European troops, she will become as formidable on land as she is already on sea. The move of Lord Beaconsfield is quite an original idea worthy of his Asiatic genius.

ACCORDING to the *Scientific American* wind vehicles are already in use on the long stretches of tracks which extend over the Western prairies, and the speed attained is said to rival that of the fast express train. The vehicle is said to average a speed of 30 miles per hour, and, with a strong breeze, to travel at the rate of 40 miles in the same period. The vehicle has four wheels, each 30 inches in diameter, is 6 feet in length, and weighs 600 lbs. The sail has two booms, respectively 14 and 15 feet in length, and an area of about 81 sqare feet. The mast is 11 feet high, tapering from 4 inches square at the heel to two inches at the truck. Mr. Bascon the inventor says that his car has been in active operation on the Kansas Pacific Railway for the past three years, being employed to convey repairing parties to pumps, telegraph lines, etc, along the route.

THERE IS sill much commercial depression in America. The report of mercantile failures in the United States for the first quarter of 1878, shows 3,365 failures, with liabilities amounting to $82,078,826, compared with 2,859 failures and $54,538,070 liabilities during the corresponding period of 1877, which was a bad year.

### TUESDAY, 4TH JUNE.

A MACHINE to restore respiration has been invented. This invention consists of a sheet-iron cylinder large enough to receive the body of an adult person. It is closed at one end, and the body of the patient is inserted, feet foremost, at the open end, up to the neck, round which a diaphragm is placed in such a manner as to prevent air from entering the cylinder. An air pump is then set to work, the air of the cylinder is partially exhausted, when the outer air enters through the mouth and nostrils; by reversing the pump, air is allowed to re-enter the cylinder, and respiration is thereby imitated. By repeating the operation a number of times asphyxiated persons, and particularly those who have been in danger of death by drowning, have been completly restored.

A COMPOSITION known as artificial marble, and possessing great solidity and impermeability, says an English paper, has come into use in France as a substitute for the natural article, it being also lighter than, and taking an equal polish to, the latter, beside resisting the action of frost better. When it is desired to have the article remain white, the plan is to take about fourteen ounces sulphate of potassa, four gallons river water, two pounds gum arabic, twenty pounds purified cement and twenty pounds marble or alabaster powder. Of this a mixture is first made by dissolving over a slow fire, stirring all the time, fourteen ounces sulphate of potassa in four gallons of water, and after fusion dissolving two pounds gum arabic; a second mixture is then made by stirring together twenty pounds purified cement; twenty pounds of the dust, and five pounds lime slaked sufficiently to cause it to crumble into powder. A part of both the mixtures is then poured into a mortar and stirred until the ingredient assumes a thick paste, and beaten with a pestle until the mass becomes elastic. In making mouldings or castings, the mould is greased and a first layer of the composition applied about one-third of an inch in thickness, and this first layer is backed by another, formed by boiling for about three or four hours over a brisk fire, hemp, tow, or other filamentous substances, cut small in the first mixture of gum and sulphate of potash. The product is mixed with the second mixture until the filamentous parts are divided through the mass and the whole reduced to a paste.

IT IS SAID, that since the evacuation of Erzeroum by the Turks, 13,000 sick and wounded Turkish soldiers have died, and that the Russians have lost, since arriving there, 21,000 in the same way. This is only one item of the horrible facts furnished by the late War.

THE PRESENT POPE objects to the presence of women on his premises, and the female members of families residing in the Vatican are consequently being removed from the palace.

BY WAY of contrast to the above read the following: At St. Petersburgh, says the *Civil and Military Gazette*, there is a regular brigade of "Light Horse," fair and fascinating dames and demoiselles, who are enrolled in the diplomatic ranks, and regularly trained to help the hands of Muscovite ambassadors. Every capital in Europe, except London, has long contained some members of this famous cohort, but British prejudice against the employment of female influence in politics was known to be so strong that the Czar withheld the blessing from Englishmen until quite recently. Now, however, London has been relieved of this disability. A most charming person is the Comtess Lovbirdiski, the rumoured chief of the Light Horse detachment, which is said to be under the command of Count Schouvaloff. In person, bountifully endowed by nature with the sort of charms which find favor with Hanoverian monarchs. Not "fat, fair, and forty," however. Her complexion is a brilliant brunette, her eyes are dark and bright as rapiers, her years do not amount to more than thirty at the outside, and her *enbonpoint* goes no farther at present than a certain luxuriousness of outline. Altogether, a very agreeable person to look at is Madame La Comtesse, as she moves gracefully through her handsome rooms in Great Guile Street, Mayfair, Her external endowments do not equal, however, her intellectual gifts. It is said that a distinguished British statesman lately remarked, "I never knew what conversation was, until I talked with the Lovbirdiski for half an hour." Whatever man may be enjoying the pleasure of her conversation, feels sure that her heart has "come out to him." He could not give any precise reason for coming to this flattering conclusion; Madame "never tells her love, but lets concealment, like a worm in the bud, prey on her damask cheek." Yet he is as sure of the fact as if she had hugged him to her heart of hearts, and, odd to say, so are all the other gentlemen who have been converted to Russophilism by her philanthropic eloquence.

THOSE, who ridicule Indian Juries, will be good enough to read the following, which we take from *Mayfair* :

The eccentricities of English juries lie rather in their actual verdicts than in the manner by which they are obtained. A prisoner was put on his trial for stealing a dozen silver spoons. A servant girl deposed that the spoons lay on the table near the window in her pantry, that she saw the prisoner escape out of the window and immediately missed the spoons; that she raised a cry, and that a labourer in her presence seized the prisoner, when the spoons were found in his pocket. On this evidence a Devonshire jury, after some deliberation, brought in a verdict of 'Guilty of Manslaughter.' The learned judge explained that there was no such count in the indictment, nor any evidence to support a charge of manslaughter—which was indeed, the offence for which a preceeding prisoner had been tried. He sent the jury back, when after half-an-hour's absence, they brought in a verdict of 'Give him two years, your lordship, and hard labour.' Again the Judge had to explain, The amount of the sentence was by law, left to him. They were the judges of the question of guilt or innocence. He read over his notes to them, and begged them to bring in a simple verdict of Guilty, or Not Guilty, The jury upon this, turned in the box, discussed, deliberated and ultimately returned a verdict of 'Not Guilty.'

We do not believe that Indian Juries have ever been guilty of such eccentricities as the above.

### WEDNESDAY, 5TH JUNE.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to communicate to His Excellency the Viceroy her desire, that the Sutlej Bridge, about being opened at Adamwahan, shall be named the Empress Bridge.

WE ARE glad to learn that Sir John Strachey's health is not so bad as was reported by a contemporary. He intends to go for a short time to England in July or August but without Dr. Owen or at the State expense. Evidently Owen Meredith wont sanction the deputation of "Owen."

LORD NORTHBROOK it is stated was robbed of his decoration of the Star of India at Calais whilst passing

from boat to rail. A telegram from Paris states it has been taken there by a Queen's messenger minus the diamonds.

THE WORLD understands that it is in contemplation to bring to Europe a "composite" brigade, to consist of battalions volunteering from the armies of the principal native states of India; Holkar, Sindia, the Maharajah of Cashmere, the Nizam, and the Gaekwar, each to furnish a battalion; and a sixth battalion to be made up of companies sent as the contingents of the minor states. We doubt this statement. The Native Princes may be willing to oblige, but our Government is perhaps not willing to be obliged.

THE COLOGNE GAZETTE estimates the army which Russia can place in the field at present at 600,000 men. This strength may be maintained, but cannot be increased. The Russian forces now in European Turkey and Roumania amount to twelve and a half army corps—312,000 men. About 100,000 men must be employed for the occupation of Asiatic Turkey; so that only seven and a half army corps —187,500 men—remain still disposable. In case of war with England the Russian troops could not be withdrawn from Turkey and Roumania. The disposable seven and a half army corps would then be employed for occupying the coasts of the Black Sea and the Baltic. Poland and St. Petersburg and Moscow, where recent events have shown the presence of very dangerous elements, would also require strong garrisons. Russia could, therefore, in case of war with England, maintain her present position, but would have no forces—not to speak of an Indian compaign —for taking precautionary measures against Austria, at whose mercy she would be, if Austria resolved on warlike measures. England could not have a better opportunity to strike against Russia than the present.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE has called for a list of the graded officers of the Educational Service throughout India; the list to show "the advantages which are attached to the classes of appointments in question." A list of "ungraded officers" ought also to be submitted to shew their sufferings.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE has approved and confirmed certain changes proposed by the Government of India last February in the Educational Establishment of Mysore. These arrangements do not involve any large increase of charge against the revenues of Mysore, as the reduction in the pay of the Directorship of Public Instruction nearly makes up for the increase elsewhere.

### THURSDAY, 6TH JUNE.

IN FORWARDING a memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission on the Bengal Sanitary Report for 1876, the Secretary of State, while concurring in the approval expressed by the Commission of the ability and energy displayed by Dr. Coates, regrets that the Report does not furnish evidence of much action or progress in sanitary matters, principally owing to the apathy of the people themselves both in the municipalities and in the districts. The Secretary of State further requests the opinion of the Government of India on the suggestions offered by the Commission as to the owners of villages being held responsible for their sanitary condition, the issue of short and explicit rules and recommendations by the Sanitary Commissioner for the guidance of the people, and the question of introducing simple sanitary teaching into schools and colleges. Attention is also drawn to the suggestions of the Com mission regarding the preservation from pollution of selected tanks.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following letter from Burrisal dated the 2nd instant:

"A serious jail emeute took place here yesterday. At about 2 o'clock the whole town was seized with a sudden panic on hearing that the prisoners of the jail had rebelled. The outbreak occurred in this way. One of the prisoners suddenly dealt a heavy blow at the constable at the door of the jail, who instantly fell down severely wounded, upon this some 20 prisoners mostly life-convicts, suddenly rushed out, broke their fetters and took to their heels, one of the prisoners however immediately closed the door of the jail as soon as the first batch had come out and thus stopped the escape of others. Information was promptly given to the Magistrate, but before the Magistrate and District Superintendent of Police could reach the spot, several of the fugitives lay killed and wounded in the street. These men when closely pursued by the constables and one Head-Constable began to throw stones and bricks to elude pursuit, but were afterwards shot like wild beasts. It is said that one Hossein Khan, a Head Constable, who served for some time in military line, ordered the constables to shoot at the fugitives, but they refused to do so until ordered by the Magistrate, upon this Hossein Khan himself began to shoot at them. When we went to the spot we found 3 prisoners lying dead in the street and several lying wounded, weltering in blood 2 of whom shortly died afterwards. We were quite astounded to see this heart-rending scene, which presented more or less the sight of a battle-field in miniature. I hope the Government will make a searching enquiry into the cause of the emeute and as to whether the shooting down the runaways was justified by the circumstances of the case.

THE ROHILCUND CORRESPONDENT of the *Mirror* writes:

"Mr. Vansittart, Barrister-at-law, some few days ago was prosecuted criminally by a stage carriage proprietor. It is said that Mr. Vansittart sent for a carriage to carry his friend and guest who is the Private Secretary to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to Nyni Tal. As night was far advanced he declined at first to comply with his order and sent word to the same effect. However, much persuasion and pressure at last prevailed on him and Mr. Vansittart's friend started on the same night. But Mr. Vansittart had already taken great umbrage. He therefore, directed the proprietor to call on him personally. When he did so Mr. Vansittart did not fail to greet him with a few lashes cuffs and kicks. The man was well thrashed. He was then offered rupees 5 as compensation which he of course accepted and then took to his heels to escape further torture. When summoned to the Court, Mr Vansittart made a clean breast of everything but concluded with a rejoinder to the effects that the complainant had no reason to lodge any complaint as he was compensated before he left his quarters. Of course this ingenious plea fell flat, and he was fined Rs. 60.

MR. PELLEW'S example is being followed in Dinagepore. A correspondent says: "The beds of the Kachai, and the other river flowing through the town, which have been partially filled up, are being cleared with the limited means at the disposal of Mr. Glazier, to supplement which he has called for a public subscription, and convened a meeting of the notabilities of the place, in which about Rs. 1,400 was subscribed."

WE HAVE RECEIVED the first number of a new periodical called the *People's Friend*. It is intended for the use of students. We wish the projector success.

BENARES has got a *Star*, which is to be overshadowed by a *Full Moon*. The last like the first is a weekly chronicler of news. We wish success to both.

IT IS STATED that the Gya line will be extended to Nagpore *via* Shergotty. This scheme will shorten the distance by rail very considerably between Calcutta and Bombay, besides relieving the Jubbulpore line of a great portion of the enormous goods traffic to and from Bengal.

### FRIDAY, 7TH JUNE.

IN LAHORE a Society has been established for the Romanization of the oriental languages.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE hears that there has been some friction between Major Biddulph and some of the Kashmir authorities of Gilgit, and that serious complaints have been made by the former against the latter. It is said, however, that the Viceroy has left the case entirely in the hands of the Maharaja, who has summoned the Kashmirian officials concerned to Srinagar, and is at present investigating the matter: Was it wise to send an officer to Gilgit, who as our contemporary says was ignorant of the people and their language?

THE LAST number of the *Indian Charivari* gives a capital likeness of the Hon'ble Mr. Rivers Thompson. We give below the biographical notice by Buck:

Mr. Thompson owes his present position to having, during his career in the civil service acquired the reputation of being an eminently "safe" man without any brilliant talents he could always be depended upon for taking sound views in most questions submitted to his judgment, and to this he added a great capacity for work. He came out to this country from Haileybury in December 1850, and his first appointment after passing the college was an Assistant Magistrate at Bankura. In 1855 he was Officiating Magistrate in Birbhoom, a rate of promotion that must make the mouths of modern, Junior civilians writer, having previously for a short time in 1854 been Assistant to the Commissioner of Chutia Nagpur. Then he became Superintendent of Revenue Surveys; and in 1859 he was appointed Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue in Calcutta. After this he was Magistrate of Purnea and Officiating Judge of Krishnagur, from whence he went on furlough for two years in 1866. On his return he went as Magistrate of Tippera, but in January 1869 was appointed to officiate as Commissioner of the Presidency division and also a Member of the Bengal Legislative Council. At the end of that year he was appointed one of the Secretaries to the Government of Bengal.

In 1872 he again went on furlough for a year, and, on his return in 1873, again joined the Bengal Secretariat and the local Council. In April, 1875 he was chosen to officiate as Chief-Commissioner of Burma, during the absence of the Honorable Mr. Eden, an appointment to which he finally succeeded in June 1877. Finally, at the beginning of this year, he found a harbour of rest in the Executive Council of the Viceroy. Such is his Official career. The records of the Calcutta Cricket Club will also show how he distinguished himself in the cricket field, his wicket-keeping being very good. Socially he has made and retained friends amongst both Europeans and Natives wherever he has been stationed.

THE RAJA OF BIJNEE, says a correspondent, held a durbar on the 1st ultimo at which not only the notabilities of his estate, but many of his humble ryots were present. There were lectures, speeches, feasting, dancing &c. The meeting is said to have had a good effect upon the ryots.

ANOTHER INSTANCE of courage and humanity on the part of a native is recorded. A few days ago a native girl fell into a narrow well in Ulsoor in Bangalore while drawing water, when a plucky spectator named Veejaragavaloo plunged into the well, head foremost, at the risk of breaking his head and neck, and held the girl above water till ropes had been let down to draw her up. He deserves a reward from the Humane Society.



THE TOTAL quantity of rice in stock in and around Calcutta during the 1st week of June is estimated at 10,89,229 mds. exclusive of the quantity on the Railway premises and on unloaded boats. The amount available for exportation is 7 lakhs of maunds.

THE GRILLING WEATHER, which is roasting the good people of Calcutta alive, has been extending its favours with an even hand. The weather reports from the Bengal districts generally tell the same tale. The rains, which fell during the last week have been wide-spread, and further down-pour for the present is nowhere needed, except in Poorce and Chittagong. The prospects of the crops everywhere are good.

REFERRING to our article headed "Assam under Col. Keatinge" a correspondent corrects us by saying that Roy Gunabhiram is still an Extra Assistant Commissioner on Rs. 400. Formerly the salaries of the six grades of Extra Assistants ranged from Rs. 250 to Rs. 700, now they have been redistributed and under the new arrangement range from Rs. 200 to Rs. 600; matters under the new *regime* so stand that a native has no chance to an Extra Assistantship in the 1st or 2nd grade. Our correspondent adds that a serious grievance which Assam at present labors under is that the decision of Revenue appeal cases may be said to depend greatly upon the good will of clerks on Rs. 150 to Rs. 200. He would prefer such appeals being disposed of by the Revenue Board.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that Col. Keatinge, Chief Commissioner, Assam, has recommended the construction of a narrow guage State Railway from Rungpore to Gowhatty and of a second line to carry coals from the Naga Hills. The last line if sanctioned will pass through Nuzira and Seebsagur with the terminus at Desangmook.

### SATURDAY, 8TH JUNE.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *Civil and Military Gazette* says:

Not very long ago, a rumour passed current that Her Majesty was bent on visiting her eastern dominions with full imperial pomp while another story attributed to her a design of adding "King of India" to the style and titles of the heir apparent. Very probably, these were mere "stayes," but I have substantial reason to believe in the Queen's desire to regain the full exercise of all the prerogatives granted to her by the Constitution. Some of these have clipped into abeyance, owing to the apathetic indifference of her immediate predecessor on the throne, and Her Majesty thinks the present moment opportune for seeking their recovery.

So a conflict between the Crown and the Constitution may be expected. "Down with Personal Government!" is the cry with the Liberals.

IN THE event of a war one of the first considerations, says the above paper, demanding the attention of the Government will be the maintenance of telegraphic communication between England and her Eastern dependency. Sir James Anderson, a high authority on such matters, entertains no very serious apprehension of the power of any enemy to do more than prolong by forty-eight hours the time necessary for telegraphing from London to Bombay from Bombay to London. The one thing needful is to multiply the lines so that, if some are cut there will still remain some that, with a brief delay, can be easily utilised. It is, of course, possible that an enterprising enemy might sever the lines by way of Egypt-Falmouth, Algiers, Italy, and Athens, but even in that case three despatch boats would suffice to conduct the correspondence between the Mediterranean fleet and Malta, so that in two days a message could be sent and received either way.

WE ARE GLAD to observe that Babu Chundernath Bose, M. A. B. L. Pleader, High Court, the Essayist, the Lecturer, the *Calcutta Reviewer* &c., has been appointed a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector. The appointment of such men strengthens the service and does honor to Government.

MR. H. L. DAMPIER makes over charge to Lord Ulick Browne on Monday next. We are glad to learn that Mr. Dampier is not ill; he has been advised by his doctor not to stay in Calcutta during the ensuing rains lest his health should again give way, and this is the reason why he has taken leave. We hope to see him back in November a stronger man. The country can ill-afford to lose the services of such an able, experienced, conscientious and high-minded officer as Mr. Dampier.

WE HEAR that Mr. Mangles, Presidency Commissioner, takes leave in July for three months, and that Mr. Harrison, Secretary to the Board, succeeds him. Mr. Harrsion has fairly established his claim to a Commissionership.

WE GLEAN the following facts from the schedule of *Messrs. Borradaile Schiller and Co., filed in the* Insolvent Court. Debts due by the insolvent firm, Rs. 92,66,603-11; ditto by F. Schiller, Rs. 2,15,322-

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14; ditto by E. C. VanCutsem, Rs. 61,188-6-2; ditto by A. B. Struthers, Rs. 3,002-12-8; goods choses in action of the firm, Rs. 1,36,827-10-9; interest in land of F. Schiller (value not mentioned); property in public securities of ditto (ditto ditto); interest in land, &c., of E. C. VanCutsem (at present of no value); goods choses in action of ditto-Rs. 3,829-6-9; property in public securities of A.B. Struthers, Rs. 8,300; debts owing to the insolvent firm, Rs. 82,79,759-9-2; ditto to F. Schiller, Rs. 17,243-2-1½; ditto to E.C. VanCutsem, Rs. 58,000; ditto to A. B. Struthers, Rs. 13,200; excepted articles of F. Schiller, Rs. 300; ditto of E. C. Van Cutsem, Rs. 300; ditto of A. B. Struthers, Rs. 300.

IT IS SAID that the Southern portions of the Districts of 24 Pergunnahs and Jessore will be converted into a new district, comprising the sub-divisions of Satkhira and Basirhat, in the 24-Pergunnahs, and Khoolnea and Bagirhat, in Jessore. Khoolnea will be the capital of the new district.

WE READ that the author of the scathing article in the *Fortnightly Review*, entitled "the Political Adventures of Lord Beaconsfield," is Mr. F. H. Hill, editor of the London *Daily News*.

THE DEATHS in Calcutta during the week ending 1st June amounted to 278 only, of which 65 were from small-pox, 14 from cholera, 31 from diarrhœa and dysentery, 72 from fever and the rest from other causes. Twelve children were still-born and four persons, all male Hindus, died from old age. There were four violent deaths, two from drowning and suffocation and two from fractures and contusions.

THERE WAS a case of incendiarism and affray on the 1st instant in a village named Goostea in the sub-division of Baraset. We hope the District Superintendent of Police will see that the case is not hushed up, as we hear that some innocent people have suffered by the act of ruffianism.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals: 1. Records of the Geological Survey of India No. XI. Vol. II. 2. Report of the Proceedings of a Public Meeting on the Vernacular Press Act held at the Town Hall on the 17th April last. 3. Trade and Navigation Returns of British India for April 1878 compared with the corresponding months of 1876 and 1877. 4. Reports on Publications issued and registered in the several Provinces of British India during 1876. 5. A few Remarks on the theory and practice of Drainage in the Hooghly District. 6. The Hindu system of Marriage examined Part II. by Bhoobunessur Sing. 7. Saisub Sahachari—A Tale in Bengali, by Poorno Chunder Chatterjee. 8. The Saddarshana-Chintaniker or studies in Indian Philosophy Vol. II. Nos. 3 and 4. 9. The People's Friend, Vol. I. No. 1. 10. The Hindiprodipa. Vol. II. No. 10. 11. Gita Munjuri or Songs in Bengali, by Kartik Churn Rai. 12. Messrs. Scott and Co.'s Monthly Stock and Price List of Types, Presses &c. 13. Report on the Political Administration of the territories within the Central India Agency for 1176-77.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

*London 3rd June.*—London papers confirm the report that the Earl of Beaconsfield will attend the Congress. The Marquis of Salisbury and the British Ambassador at Berlin will also attend on behalf of England. The Press augur a favorable settlement of the whole Eastern Question. M. Waddington represents France at the Congress. Count Schouvaloff has started for St. Petersburgh, and thence goes to the Congress.

3rd.—Sir Stafford Northcote, in presenting the diplomatic correspondence with Russia to the Commons, said the British Government had accepted the German invitation to a European conference to meet on the 13th June for a free discussion of the San Stefano treaty, on the understanding that the other powers also accepted. Sir Stafford also said that the Earl of Beaconsfield, the Marquis of Salisbury, and Lord Odo Russel would represented England at the conference. Mr. Hanbury gave notice of a motion of censure on the unbecoming language used by Mr. Gladstone in an article of his in the *Nineteenth Century Review* against the employment of Indian troops in Europe.

*4th.*—The forthcoming Congress is regarded with universal satisfaction. Some London papers have misgivings as to the result. The Chief members of the British Ministry are going to the Congress. Safvet Pacha will represent Turkey. The Under-Secretary of State for India replying to a question in the Commons, said it was not intended to interfere in the number of troops maintained by India Princes.

*5th.*—The liberal party and liberal journals are opposed to Lord Beaconsfield's going to the Berlin Congress. The *Times* approves of the step because it will place England on an equality with the other powers, and regards invitations to congress as a great triumph of English statesmanship.

*6th.*—Sir Stafford Northcote, replying to a question, said the English plenipotentiaries at the Congress will be instructed by the Cabinet, who will decide all questions on their collective responsibility, and that nothing will be submitted to Parliament until the conclusion of the Congress. The first Lord of the Admiralty said that for reasons of salubrity, the British squadron will leave the Gulf of Ismed, and be stationed at Prince's Islands. The British Ambassador at Constantinople has been created a Civil Knight of the Grand Cross of the Bath.

*8th.*—A colliery explosion has taken place near Warrinton resulting in the death of 235 miners, Parliament was adjourned yesterday for the Whitsuntide holidays until the 17th June. The continental press felicitate Lord Beaconsfield on his triumph of policy and regard the Congress as a brilliant success of English diplomacy. The maintenance of peace is regarded as almost a certainty. The *Times* announces that the Anglo-Russian terms are strictly secret; nevertheless they are believed to be most satisfactory. Consols ¼ lower.

*Berlin, 2nd June.*—The Emperor of Germany was shot at by an assassin and slightly wounded this afternoon whilst driving, details not yet known.

*2nd.*—The perpetrator of the attempted assassination of the Emperor William is a Doctor Nobiling belonging to the Socialists. The assassin has been arrested; he attempted to commit suicide after firing at the Emperor. The Emperor received thirty duck shots in the head, arms, and back, and has lost much blood. All the shots have been extracted. His Majesty is in no danger. The German people are much exasperated at the coward'ly act.

*3rd.*—The Emperor William is gaining strength.

*4th.*—The Emperor William continues progressing favourably.

*5th.*—Prince Frederick William has assumed temporary command of the Government.

*6th.*—An Imperial decree has been issued, announcing temporary control of Government by Prince Frederick William. This is considered tantamount to a temporary regency. Disclosures have been made in connection with the attempted assassination of the Emperor, which indicate a widespread nature of socialist conspiracy. Many arrests have been made and severe repressive measures are being taken, even a European conference on the subject is being advocated. Dr. Nobiling, the would-be assassin, is unconscious.

*Vienna, 2nd June.* Count Andrassy has informed the delegations that the Congress will positively meet on the 11th June, Russia and England having agreed to the basis of the Conference programme.

*Constantinople, 2nd June.* The Russians unsuccessfully attacked the insurgents in Roumelia.

*4th.*—Ruchdi Pacha has been dismissed.

Safet has been appointed Grand Vizier, and remains Foreign Minister as well.

Phosphore Pacha has been appointed Minister of War.

*5th.*—The Russian military authorities have again demanded of the Turks to surrender the fortresses to Russians troops.

The Porte has refused to grant an armistice to the Cretans.

*5th.*—Sadyk Pacha and Caratheodori Effendi are going to the Congress, instead of Safvet Pacha.

*7th.*—Constant complaints are being made of the Bulgarians massacring and pillaging the Turks in Bulgaria.

*Malta, 2nd June.* A review of 9,900 troops took place on Saturday, in which the Indian troops, already landed, acquitted themselves admirably.

*St. Petersburgh, 5th June.* Prince Gortschakoff has recovered and will attend Congress with Count Schouvaloff.

*6th.*—The Russian semi-official journals are hopeful that Congress will result in a durable settlement of the Eastern question.

*Bombay, 6th June, 10h. 34m.* The *Times of India* publishes the following telegram, which was brought on from Egypt by the mail:—"It is stated in London that, should the additional 30,000 native troops be brought from India, a camp for their temporary reception will be formed at Gibralter."

*7th.*—Sir Stafford Northcote said it was not expedient to make statement concerning the policy of Government. It was to be found in papers already presented to the house and especially in Salisbury circular.

*Washington, 6th June.*—Both Houses of Congress have passed a Bill against the further contraction of drawbacks. This, it is understood closes financial legislation.

*Paris 1st June.*—In the Chamber of deputies. The Foreign Minister, replying to a question, said that France had accepted the invitation to a congress on the condition that all questions relating to Egypt, the Lebanon and the holy places were excluded.


# The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1878.


## THE INDIAN CONTINGENT—A CONSTITUTIONAL DIFFICULTY.

A GRAVE constitutional question has been raised in connection with the despatch of Indian troops to Malta. It was introduced by Mr. Fawcett, who said that "although the Chancellor of the Exchequer had assured the House of Commons that there had been no change in the policy of Government in respect of the situation of Europe, Indian troops had been brought to Malta to fight Russia in Europe." He remarked: "He did not know what a change in policy could be if it was not the summoning for the first time indefinite multitudes of our Indian troops to engage in a European contest. (Opposition cheers.) Nothing could raise more important constitutional questions, or questions more vitally affecting the finance and the Government of India. What was the meaning of the Mutiny Bill, and why did they every year scrupulously vote the number of men for the British Army? Because they should not be overborne by a large standing army, and because Parliament should keep a firm and tight hold on the Executive as to the strength of the army. (Hear, hear.) There was no constitutional principle which their forefathers had thought of greater importance. But now what was the position? The numbers of the Indian army were not limited—there might be 200,000 now and 500,000 next year, and it might be decided to bring over 70,000, or 170,000 or 250,000 of that army into Europe. (Conservative cheers.) He was glad to hear that cheer. (Hear, hear.) They were beginning to discover the intentions of the other side, and the country was beginning to know the importance and the peril of what had been done." Sir George Campbell followed suit. He said, "the Mutiny Act passed by the Indian Legislature was not an annual Act, and he could not see how it would apply to the native troops when they came to Malta; and the question certainly did arise whether native troops might be brought to England and governed by an Act over which Parliament had no control. The expenditure in which the country would be involved in regard to these troops might not only amount to hundreds of thousands, but might probably reach millions." Little did we expect that he would run down the Indian troops, but Sir George sticks to nothing. He said, "considered in regard to efficiency their number must be subject to large deductions, for in his view only two battalions were really fit to cope with European troops. To bring these troops through the Suez Canal would establish a precedent most dangerous to ourselves. Native soldiers could not be brought to England unless bribed in some form or other to go. They would have their pay, an allowance for foreign service, a free kit, free rations, and free quarters. Their pay would, in fact, be trebled in amount. Were we prepared to have these native soldiers serving side by side with our European soldiers and receiving much larger pay than the European soldiers?" Strange to say that Sir George forgot the history of the sepoys and the signal services they rendered in fighting the battles of the East India Company. As for the feeling of the Indian Troops in respect of the Malta expedition, could there have been a finer enthusiasm than what has been shewn by the Sepoys who compose the Malta contingent, but the ex-Indian Governor libelled them by saying that they have gone only for money's sake. Sir William Harcourt as a jurist confined himself to the constitutional question. He said: "In this country for generations the English people have taken the precaution—the wise and safe precaution—that the army of the Crown shall not be employed without the knowledge and without the consent of Parliament. It has not hitherto been necessary to ask whether the same regulations are applicable to the Indian army. I do not wish to express any opinion at this moment adverse to the policy of the Government. I am speaking only of the manner in which this policy has undoubtedly been put into effect. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer adheres to the assertion that this is a thing which can be done, or ought to be done, without any communication with Parliament, we are then in the face of a very grave constitutional question. (Cheers.) The Chancellor of the Exchequer says he will bring forward an estimate. It might be that it would not be necessary to bring forward an estimate. It might be that the Indian Government could bring forward the force itself. Does the Chancellor of the Exchequer assert that if there was an Indian surplus, the Government need not come to Parliament; but that they might employ the Indian revenue for European purposes or for English purposes? I shall be glad to hear his explanation." Mr. Laing drew attention to the danger of taking native troops away from garrison duty in India, and imbuing them with an adventurous spirit. Sir J. Hay pointed out that Indian troops had several times been employed out of India, instancing the cases of the two Chinese wars, the Abyssinian war, and the Persian war. He considered it quite erroneous to state that this was merely an experiment for which the House was quite unprepared, and that there was no precedent to justify Her Majesty's Government in putting forward the full strength of the Crown. Mr. Newdegate remarked that at the commencement of the Abyssinian war, it was perfectly well understood that Indian troops would be employed, but he asked the House whether, when they voted the six millions, they had the slightest notion that this means would be employed. Mr. B. Cochrane congratulated the Government upon the step they had taken, inasmuch as it had proved the noble spirit that animated the Indian troops. Sir Robert Peel, though a member of the Opposition, supported the measure of Government and said, "he hoped to see all hon. members on that side giving a unanimous and deter-

mined support to the Government, and he was sorry to see the hon. member for North Warwickshire complaining of the reticence of the Government." In replying to Mr. Fawcett and Sir W. Harcout the Chancellor of the Exchequer said:

Although that is a movement which will undoubtedly come under the notice of Parliament, and over which Parliament holds that control which it holds over all the movements of the British forces—that of the right of withdrawing or challenging all the supplies which are asked for that purpose—yet, as far as the order given to Her Majesty's forces is concerned, it is an order which is strictly within the proper and constitutional prerogative of the Crown, and which Her Majesty gives with as much right as she might have given an order for troops in England to proceed to Gibraltar or anywhere else. (Hear, hear.) I am asked, Why was not notice given of it before? The hon. and learned gentleman has himself suggested considerations that would suggest themselves to almost every mind—that on movements of this kind it was not desirable that any premature discussion should take place. The decision was arrived at on principle some time ago; but there were arrangements to be made in India which required time and which could not be satisfactorily completed without the observance of secrecy. It would have been disadvantageous in every way that there should have been premature publication. The right hon. gentleman says the Government communicated, or allowed the matter to appear, within twenty-four hours after the rising of the House. There was no communication made on the part of the Government, and I believe the Government were not prepared for the matter becoming known so soon. It became known in India in consequence of the operations necessary in order to enable the troops to sail before the monsoon. Under any circumstances, I may frankly say I should not have thought it my duty, had I known the matter would be made public to make any communication to Parliament until the matter actually took place. The question of transport might have been complicated if there had been any premature disclosure on the subject. (Hear, hear.) The hon. and learned getleman says if the power which the Crown claims is a power which is to be recognised as residing in the Crown, very serious consequences may follow, and we must be prepared for some very serious results. He says that it might happen that large forces might be brought from India into the United Kingdom. He says power might be exercised by the Crown to draw supplies from India with out coming to Parliament at all. In the first of these cases, the bringing of Indian troops to England would be contrary to the Bill of Rights, and it would be impossible for any Minister of the Crown to advise a step to be taken which is contrary to Act of Parliament The movement of troops from one part of the Empire to another does not authorise the bringing into Euland of any troops not authorised by Parliament, and with regard to the employment of the Indian revenue for the purpose of bringing Indian troops to be used by Her Majesty without the control of Parliament, that has been distinctly provided against by an Act passed in 1856 or 1857—(An Hon. Member: 1859)—which provides that the Indian troops shall not be employed beyond the Indian limits, and paid out of the Indian revenue, without the consent of Parliament. The Indian troops cannot be brought outside of India except for the purpose of repelling immediate invasion. I have been asked out of what funds these expenses should be borne. We propose that the entire expense of these troops shall be borne by the Imperial Exchequer, and that India shall be entirely relieved of any charge with respect to them. Therefore the House will see that the proposal will be one of a character that will not be open to the objection urged by the hon. member for Hackney for imposing on India a burden which she ought not to be asked to bear, though I shall be prepared to maintain that this is matter in which the interests of India are involved as a part of the British Empire which might be affected by what might possibly happen. However, I will not raise that question. It is one that will no doubt take its place when the estimate is proposed. With regard to what the member for the Kirkcaldy Burghs asks as to whether I propose to reconstruct the budget, I have no such intention. I stated at the time the budget was introduced that there would be a supplementary estimate, and that will be taken into discussion at the proper time. With regard to whether the Indian force will serve under the Indian Mutiny Act, that will be a legal question, and I would rather leave it to my legal friends to discuss; but I believe it will be so. There is one other matter on which I wish to say a word. The hon. member for Hackney, and the hon. and learned member for Oxford and others have commented upon the substance of what I said on the last day before the recess, when I was aware of the step which was about to be taken. I stated then, on being questioned as to whether there was any charge in the policy of Her Majesty's Government, or whether any fresh cause of anxiety had arisen—I stated, and stated, with truth, that there was no change in the policy of Her Majesty's Government—(Ministerial cheers)—nor any fresh cause of anxiety. (Cheers) The policy of Her Majesty's Government is a policy which we have declared over and over again. Our policy is to endeavour to bring about a settlement of the great questions raised—a settlement of a peaceful and satisfactory character. On the other hand, we have never disguised from the country that we may be disappointed in our hopes, and it may be necessary that we should take measures for the protection and self-preservation of our Empire, and such measures we have thought it our duty to take. (Hear, hear.) I was speaking at that time with reference to the rumours and report that were going about, and which had attracted the attention of members of this House and elsewhere as to complications and unsatisfactory proceeding which made us appear to be in a less satisfactory position for the business in which we were engaged. I said in reference to that there was nothing which made the situation less favourable, or that gave increased cause for the alarm that had previously existed. I stated at the same time that Her Majesty's Government did not conceal from themselves that the situation was an anxious one. That was a perfectly legitimate, frank, and satisfactory statement. (Cheers.)

Now, we must confess Sir Stafford Northcote's answer was eminently satisfactory. The discussion of the constitutional question was deferred, but enough was said to shew what the Ministry felt on the subject. We may, however, mention that this is not the first time the Sepoys have been taken for purposes of European war. If we remember aright Sepoys were taken to Egypt to fight Napolean the Great.

## SIR CECIL BEADON AND SIR GEORGE COUPER—A COMPARISON.

THE reader doubtless remembers the howl of indignation which was raised against Sir Cecil Beadon for his mismanagement of the Orissa Famine; he was abused in the Press, condemned by the Government of India, and attacked in England. And yet what was his fault? As the responsible ruler of the country it was certainly his duty to secure the well-being of the people in a time of national calamity like the famine by helping the needy, and he did all that he could under the policy of Government then understood as to its duties in a famine crisis. He himself went to the threatened province, and he was then assured by the local officers that there was no fear of wide-spread distress; he came back and for the sake of his health went to Darjeeling, but not knowing the future he commissioned the Board of Revenue to superintend matters in Orissa. He ordered a scheme of relief works in accordance with the recognized policy of Government. And there his mission of mercy ended. In the meantime the official dream was dispelled—there was distress, disease, and death in the land—tens, scores, nay, hundreds fell daily victims to the grim monster—Famine. Still the Government was unmoved—neither the Bengal Government nor the Government of India would undertake the responsibility of supplying food to the famishing people—it would be a violation of the principles of political economy! For this stern view of the duties of the State the Government of India, and not the Government of Bengal, Lord Lawrence, and not Sir Cecil Beadon, was responsible. The result of this inhuman policy of the Government of India was the sacrifice of about a million of lives. The wails of distress at last reached England, and Lord Cranborne, the new Conservative Secretary of State for India, was so much moved by these cries that he telegraphed to the Government of India to "spend money freely" to supply food to the starving population of Orissa. The poor Oryas were at last saved. We do not absolve Sir Cecil Beadon from the blame, which legitimately belonged to him in this sad business, but it would be seen that he was himself a victim to the self-assurance of the local officers on the one hand and the heartless political economy of the Government of India on the other, and yet when the day of reckoning came, the whole responsibility was cast upon him because he happened to be the local Governor. A Commission was appointed; Sir Cecil was arraigned before the bar of public opinion; the Government of India and the Secretary of State condemned him, and he, who had served his Sovereign and the people so long and so well, retired from this country with a broken heart and in broken health. Such was the treatment of Sir Cecil Beadon.

Let us turn to Sir George Couper. The times in which he lives are completely changed from those in which Sir Cecil Beadon's lot was cast. Now the Government has acknowledged its duty to save the lives of the people in a time of famine by supplying work and food. Now, the Government has a registration of rainfall, of the state of the crops and prices of food, which was not known before, and which places the authorities in a far better position to deal successfully with a calamity of this description. Then Orissa was shut out from the rest of India for want of communications, but there is no difficulty for transport of food in the North-Western Provinces. Sir George Couper had fair warning, but he would not simply believe it. Far from grappling with the calamity in a humane spirit, he shewed a resolution from the beginning to quench the feeling of humanity in the local officers. The terrible exposures of his heartless policy, which the *Statesman* has made, shew in what spirit he has acted. He laid down a bare subsistence wage, which was not even barely sufficient for the poor sufferers to keep their body and soul together; he sent his confidential agent to organize relief works, but with instructions to discourage them as much as possible; he looked with a cold eye upon those officers, who recommended expenditure of money on a large scale for relief purposes. These charges have been fully proved by the *Statesman*. And what is the result of the inhuman policy of Sir George Couper? Half a million of people have been carried away by death! And yet how is he regarded by the Government of India? *Shabash*! shouts the Governor General in Council. The difference in the treatment of Sir Cecil Beadon and Sir George Couper offers a cruel commentary on the spirit which seems now to actuate the Government of India.

The *Statesman*, which has mainfully fought the cause of humanity, so rudely attacked by Sir George Couper, writes:

"The fact that Sir George Couper is unequal to the responsibilities that we have devolved upon him is so obvious, we are assured, to every one who has to deal with him, that the Supreme Government of the country cannot, without heavy scandal, leave, the North-West Provinces under his rule for the three years longer which his incumbency has yet to run. We have made a point of enquiring personally of every North-West and Oudh officer we have met for the last 12 months, as to the question of his efficiency; and we have had but one answer from every one. He is, they all alike tell us, a well-meaning man, but painfully unequal to the responsibilities of his position. It is a very unhappy thing for Sir George Couper himself, that he should ever have thought of using his access to the Prince of Wales, in 1875, to get himself nominated to the position he now holds. When we remember how everything in our rule depends upon the personal strength and personal character of the ruler, we can commit no crime of greater magnitude against the people, than to hand them over deliberately to the administration of an officer whom we know to be unequal to the task. Now, we know this quite well of Sir George Couper. We have made a man ruler over 42 millions of people, who has neither the energy, abilities, nor attainments, that would justify our giving even a district collectorship into his charge. He did fairly well, it is said, and got through his work without remark, as a Judge; but as an executive officer it is impossible to state his inefficiency in terms too strong. Now, either we are libelling Sir George Couper, and shamefully depreciating him in the eyes of the people and of his own service and countrymen; or the Government is betraying the people whom Sir George Couper rules, to, the influences that led to his original elevation, and that we suppose still keeps him there. Which is it? Is it we who are wickedly libelling Sir George Couper, or is the Government sacrificing some 42 millions of people, to the fatal system which has been allowed to place Sir George Couper where he is? Forty-two millions of people;—the entire population of France is but 36millions; of the German Empire but 41 millions. And with 'personal rule' to administer therein, we sacrifice this vast population to the sentimental fancies of the Prince of Wales. The result has been exactly what might have been anticipated. Millions of the unhappy people thus handed over to his inefficiency, were made to pass through torments last winter not to be described. It is idle any longer to doubt that Sir George Couper slowly starved to death 500,000 of the poor men, women, and children we made over to his care, between the months of September and March last, subjecting several millions of them to the bitter torments of starvation. How dare we before God and man act thus? It is idleness itself to make excuses for it. Had '*the able man*' been put at the head of the N.-W. Government, instead of '*the Queens play fellow*,' these 500,000 victims of the famine would to-day have been alive. Is then Sir George to stay where he now is, until his incapacity becomes the death warrant of half-a-million more? We *must* speak out to the Government. We dare not be silent and hold our peace, or the blood of these poor creatures will be found in our own skirts. We say then that if the Government of India allows Sir George Couper to fulfil the three year's incumbency yet left to him by the rule of the Service, it will be a guilty subordinating of the interests of 42 millions of people, to the personal interests of this one man, and to the sentimental fancy of providing for him because he was the Queen's play fellow when a child.

Will no Member of Parliament come forward to vindicate the good name of the Queen's Government by moving for an enquiry into the administration of famine in the North-Western Provinces by Sir George Couper? It would, we agree with our contemporary, be a grave scandal,

if Sir George Couper be let off, because he was a quandom play-fellow of the Queen, when Sir Cecil Beadon was so cruelly sacrificed, though if he was responsible for the mismanagement of the Orissa Famine, the Government of India was equally responsible with him for it. But we repeat the times are altered.

## MR. F. H. O'DONNELL M. P.

BY this time Mr. F. H. O'Donnell's name has become familiar to the newspaper reading public in India. He takes a lively interest in Indian affairs, and has evidently succeeded in "educating" his party to share the same interest. He forms now one of the central figures in the group of Parliamentary men, who interest themselves in Indian questions. A descendant of the O'Donnells, who are now scattered over the whole continent of Europe, and who occupy some of the most prominent positions in some of the European countries; highly educated, a barrister by profession, connected with some of the leading journals in the United Kingdom, gifted with high intellectual powers, possessed of lofty aspirations and generous sympathies, and indomitable courage, he has, though a young man, said to be under thirty, already established his reputation as a leader of the Irish party. His dogged perseverance in the cause of "Home Rule" for Ireland has made him unpopular with a section of the English public; he is one of the Parliamentary "obstructives," as his party is called, against whom there is a most unreasoning prejudice in England. But a public man ought not to be judged by the feelings of rivals or opponents. In what estimation is Mr. O'Donnell held by his own constituents and countrymen? There was lately a demonstration held in Dungarvan, for which he sits in Parliament; the cordiality and enthusiasm, with which he was greeted, ought to teach his opponents that their political malice does not affect him a jot. The Dublin *Freeman's Journal* has given a full account of his reception. We are told that "not only the bulk of the voters and townsfolk, but considerable country contingents for miles around, went out on the Waterford road with music and banners to meet him, and accompanied him into town with every demonstration of welcome and enthusiasm. The day's "outing" was helped by delicious summer weather, in which the country looked its greenest, and the pretty girls (who form so considerable a section of the constituency) looked their gayest. An influential deputation of the electors, headed by the Very Rev. J. V. Cleary, D.D., P.P., met Mr. O'Donnell half-way between Waterford and Kilmacthomas, and the procession of carriages and cars which was then formed, with St. Michael's brass band from Tullow in the van, went on increasing until upon the confines of the town there were several thousand men thronging around their member. The Youghal Home Rule brass band, with their standard of green, and the Dungarvan brass band, made a conspicuous figure in the procession. The air and the shouts of "O'Donnell Aboo" were heard on all sides. Mr. O'Donnell and the Rev. Dr. Cleary rode in an open carriage, accompanied by Mr. Patrick Flood, chairman of the Town Commissioners, and by Captain William Gibbons. About a mile outside the town the horses were taken from the carriage, which was dragged by lusty arms the entire distance into town, amid cheers for Mr. O'Donnell and for Dr. Cleary. The people massed themselves around a platform in the centre of the Square, the vastest, most orderly, and most enthusiastic gathering witnessed for years within the borough. A public meeting was held, and the chair was taken by the Very Rev. Dr. Cleary P. P." We give below the Chairman's address:

The Chairman first of all expressed his extreme delight at the multitudes in which the good people of Dungarvan had come to honour their representative, at the enthusiasm with which they had hailed him, and at the peacefulness which they had mingled with their strength (cheers). They had gathered together in crowds so enormous that their enemies anticipations had all vanished, and Dungarvan stood before the world united (cheers). In honouring their representative to-day they were honouring the sacred principle which was the foundation of constitutional freedom—that the people planted by God in the land, and endowed by God with intelligence, should have a voice in the legislation which governed their most precious social and moral interests (cheers). Furthermore, Mr. O'Donnell was emphatically the elect of the people, and in honouring him to-day they were showing the world that they were not ashamed of the choice they had made twelve months ago, and that the trust they then reposed on him they now renewed, and sent him back the stronger (loud cheering). They thereby honoured themselves, maintained their self-respect, and declared their strength—The strength of their unity (cheers).

A Voice—I wish we had 105 O'Donnells in the House of Commons (cheers).

The Chairman—When he looked over this vast assemblage, at their order, their peacefulness, and their strength, he felt that the heart of Dungarvan beat here as one man's (cheers)—Dungarvan, united, strong, and firm in its determination to carry out its purpose and re-elect the representative of its choice (cheers). Their unity was the unity of the people with each other, aye and a unity as essential to the well-being of Ireland, the unity of the priests and people (loud cheering). Yes, and furthermore, their gathering in those thousands he saw around him was a renewal to-day of their protest against corruption (cheers). For Mr. O'Donnell was not elected to Parliament by the intimidation of landlord agents or bailiffs, nor by hands bribed with the accursed gold of the Saxon (cheers). He was elected emphatically by the people as the people's choice; they had him and they would keep him (loud cheers). And again let him say, and he said it with emphasis, though with a deep sense of the responsibility of his words, that they had given Mr. O'Donnell this extraordinary welcome to-day with their voices and their hearts, because he was vilified and abused by their enemies (loud cheering). Was there ever a man yet who stood forward for the interests of Ireland, who did not fear to assert her rights, who had courage in his heart to face her assailants, that did not find himself vilified and traduced, browbeaten, mocked and insulted (cheers). Was not Dan O'Connell assailed in the House of Commons? Had not William Ewart Gladstone and the Marquis of Hartington themselves given a recent illustration of what beastly bellowings meant in the first assembly of gentlemen in the world (cheers).

A Voice—Groans for Ward and Harman (groans).

Chairman—I say that our representative has been vilified and intimidated, and efforts have been made to choke the voice of his free opinion; and therefore he came forward here to say that the more they vilify him the more we will honour him; the more they intimidate him the more we will stand at his back; the more they crush him into silence the more we will encourage him to lift up a fearless voice as our representative (prolonged cheering.

A Voice—What about war (Groans).

The Chairman repeated the determination of the people of Dungarvan to uphold their choice against landlord intimidation and Saxon bribery, and what was more, those who were doubtful at the last election would be sure to be with Mr. O'Donnell, at the next (cheers). He recapitulated briefly and forcibly the triple principle of the programme on which they elected Mr. O'Donnell:—The right of the Irish farmer who tilled the land and watered it with his sweat to leave to his children the treasure accumulated in that land by his life-long labour, instead of having it torn from him by robbery consecrated by law (cheers). The right of Catholic Ireland to Catholic education (cheers), and the right of Irishmen to a voice as potential in Irish affairs as the voice of England was in English affairs (cheers). In other words, the right to be governed in Ireland by the Queen, Lords, and Commons of Ireland, without the interference of foreigners, who had laid their hands upon her constitution, degraded her to a province, robbed her of her money, and then derided her as beggars among nations (cheers). It was upon this programme they had elected Mr. O'Donnell and upon it they would re-elect him whenever they were put to the test (cheers). There were some men—good men honourable true and trusted men—who at a particular moment in the history of the past year, did shake their heads a little, and say this member of theirs was an ardent young man, powerful indeed in his stroke but going somewhat too fast (laughter).

A Voice—A cheer for obstruction (cheers).

The Chairman confessed he did not treat that sentiment of those good people with disregard, but he watched the course of events, and said, "Leave him alone; do not scrutinise an act or word of a public man too closely." If every man was to be brought to account about his every word, we would be all brought into collision upon minor matters. But watch the substantial course of a man's action and judge him by it (cheers). There was a Conference held in Dublin lately to regulate the action of the National Party, and they all knew there was not a man at that Conference whose utterances were stonger in favour of peace and harmonious action; not a man whose declaration was received with more confidence, when he said he would work in harmony under the leadership of Mr. Butt, than the representative of Dungarvan (cheers). He for one could never subscribe to the doctrine that they sent representatives to Parliament to go in tongue-tied and have no judgement of their own. The rule of action should be and he believed substantially was that when the Party declared that it would take united action upon any question, the man who refused to act in harmony with them should stand aside, but that upon any question every representative of the people was free to speak his mind to the best of his judgement (cheers),

Such was the reception given by Mr. O'Donnell's constituents and countrymen. He addressed his audience with his usual ability, energy and earnestness. In this address he thus alluded to India:

Mr. O'Donnell went on to refer to the third special class of Imperial questions in which as Irishmen and lovers of liberty they were bound to interest themselves—that is, the class supplied by the grievance of those injured races and populations over whom England ruled and often ruled with a rod of iron as hard as that with which the Czar ruled Poland (cheers). He mentioned that he had been commissioned to lay before the Home Rule party several petitions from the unfortunate over taxed, unrepresented and oppressed people of India, asking the Home Rule party to help them in the redress of the grievances (cheers). One of the reasons which Government alleged against the grant of Home Rule was that if they granted it the Irish would be continually putting in their word in the Government of India or South Africa. That it was better to keep the Irish as they were, because the Irish as they were never thought of interfering with what was going on in India, South Africa, or elsewhere. He and his friends intended to take that argument out of the mouths of the Government by interfering just as much in Imperial policy, by being just as outspoken in denunciation of wrongs as they could possibly be if they had got their Home Rule constitution, and he hoped the Government would take the lesson to heart, and finding that nothing could stop them in the Imperial Parliament recognise the expediency as well as the justice of allowing them to have a Parliament of their own (loud cheers.)

It will be thus seen that Mr. O'Donnell and his party are determined to ventilate Indian grievances in Parliament. Some Anglo-Indians, notably the *Civil and Military Gazette*, seem to think that we have been deluded by Irish brag, that the Home Rulers care as much for India as they do for Timbuctoo, that they are "a ruffianly lot," and deserve no countenance. We judge men by their acts, and if we find from their acts that they are friendly to us, what business have we to enquire into their motives or what reasons have we to suppose that they are not actuated with the best of motives? It is true that the Home Rulers are not in good odour with the Government or with a large section of the English public, but that is no reason that they should be considered a "ruffianly lot." This has been the unfortunate lot of the Irish lot all through their history. Since the days of O'Connell the Irish have been manfully fighting their battles for national regeneration and emancipation, and although we have no sympathy with the revolutionists, who would sever Ireland from England altogether, and whose deeds of violence and bloodshed have met with deserved defeat and execration, we confess the Constitutional party, of which Mr. O'Donnell is a leader, has just claims to the support of all right-minded and impartial men. And need we add that we ought to feel grateful to the Irish Constitutionalists, if they include in their programme the amelioration of the social and political condition of their fellow-subjects in India.

## THE TRANSFER OF THE OCCUPANCY RIGHT.

### II.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in his letter to the British Indian Association on the subject of the occupancy right, which we published last week says, "he will not enter into a discussion of the theory enunciated by the Association, to the effect, that the creation of the occupancy tenure by Act X of 1859 was an encroachment upon the rights of the landlords under the permanent settlement, though he considers this open to question, both historically and legally." It may, however, be not without interest to discuss the historical and legal question. In order to understand that question it is necessary to consider the different classes of tenures which are to be found in Bengal under different local names, the rights and privileges attached to some of them at the Decennial Settlement, and the effect which the successive Sale Laws have had upon them. Accordingly we propose to lay before the reader the following summary of ryotti tenures in Bengal, which was given in a petition of the British Indian Association in reference to the draft of Act X of 1859.

The tenures, existing at and about the date of the Settlement, may be classed as follows:

1*st*.—Such as without the right of property have still the right of occupancy attached to them, subject to the payment of such rent progressive or otherwise, as may have been stipulated between their holders and the zemindar, when the latter entered into engagements with Government for the payment of public revenue. These are the dependent talooks described in Section 48 of Regulation VIII of 1793.

2*nd*.—Such as have the right of occupancy guarauteed at a fixed rent, in consideration of their having been so held for twelve years prior to the Decennial Settlement. These are the istemrari or mokurari tenures described in Section 49 of the above Regulation.

3*rd*.—Khoodkasht tenures described in Clause 2, Section 60, Regulation VIII of 1793, or tenures which were held by resident cultivators, at the time when the Decennial Settlement was concluded, and which tenures were continued to them, subject to the payment of rent at the Pergunna rates.

4*th*.—Such as are governed by written contracts entered into between the tenants and the landholders prior or subsequent to the Decennial Settlement for lands other than those described in Sections 48, 46 and 60, of Regulation VIII of 1793.

5*th*.—Such as are held from year to year, or tenures at will.

The condition of the above mentioned tenures was gradually affected by the Revenue Sale Regulations promulgated from time to time. By the Regulations passed prior to Regulation XI of 1812, dependent talooks of the nature described in Section 48 Regulation VIII of 1793, which existed at the Decennial Settlement, and which were not found at the time or subsequently to be liable to enhancement, as provided in Section 61 of that Regulation were declared to be exempted from enhancement and the holders not liable to dispossession, except upon proof in a regular suit by the auction-purchaser of his title to enhance the rates. Talooks existing at the Decennial Settlement which had been proved liable to increase in the manner stated in Section 51 Regulation VIII of 1793 were liable to enhancement at the Purgunnah rates, but the holders of them were not subject to dispossession. Talooks created since the Decennial Settlement like the above, were declared liable to enhancement at the Pergunnah rates, with the same reservation as to dispossession. Istemrardars were held exempt from dispossession or enhancement. Khoodkasht ryots holding their lands prior or subsequent to the Decennial Settlement were held to be liable to enhancement at the Pergunna rates but not to dispossession. Pykasht ryots were subject to dispossession at the option of the purchaser, at the expiration of their leases. It having appeared that the Pergunna rates were various, fluctuating and uncertain, it was provided by Section 7, Regulation V of 1812, that the lands liable to enhancement under the operation of the Sale Laws should be assessed at the rates obtaining for the time in adjacent lands of the same description. It would appear from the foregoing that, up to 1812, the Legislature considered it a sufficient protection to the public revenue, as well as the interests of the purchaser, to authorize the cancelment of leases (except those of the exempted classes defined above,) and the enhancement of the rates according to a fixed rule, that is the Pergunnah rate, if any there were, or the rate obtaining for the time being in similar lands adjacent, and did not contemplate ejectment except in cases provided in Section 7, Regulation IV of 1794, that is to say when the terms of settlement according to the Pergunnah rates were declined by the under-tenants. Regulation VIII of 1819 took a different view of the principle which should govern under-tenures after revenue sales—evidently to check frauds which must have been extensively practised by the proprietors. This principle of annulment of tenures was more clearly and in unmistakeable language laid down in Regulation XI of 1822, and in Section 30 of that Regulation it was declared that a revenue sale for reasons stated therein annulled all the tenures created subsequent to the Settlement, or such as the original engager might have set aside except *bona fide* leases of ground for houses, &c., saving likewise as enacted in Section 32, the exempted classes of tenures, which were defined and protected in the following manner :—

"The above rules, or any other rules contained in the existing regulations, by which persons are declared competent, under certain restrictions, to annul engagements contracted between former proprietors and their under-tenants, and in certain cases to enhance the rent payable by such tenants, shall not be construed to entitle the purchasers of land at public sales to disturb the possession of any village zemindar, putteedar, mofussil talookdar, or other person having an hereditary transferable property in the land, or in the rents thereof, not being one of the proprietors party to the engagement of settlement, or his representative. Nor shall the said rule be construed to authorize any purchaser as aforesaid to eject a khoodkasht kudeemee ryot, or resident and hereditary cultivator, having a prescriptive right of occupancy. Nor shall a purchaser demand a higher rate of rent from an under-tenant of either of the above descriptions, than was receivable by the former malgoozar, saving and except in cases in which such under-tenants may have held their lands under engagements, stipulating for a lower rate of rent than would have been justly demandable for the land, in consequence of abatments having been granted by the former malgoozars from the old established rates, by special favor, or for a consideration, or the like, or in cases in which it may be proved that according to the custom of the pergunnah, mouzah, or other local division, such under-tenants are liable to be called upon for any new assessment, or other demand not interdicted by the Regulations of Government."—*Section* 32, *Regulation XI*, 1822.

Now the village zemindars and others who are described to have an hereditary transferable property in the land must, to be consistent with the principle laid down in Section 30, mean such as had or acquired rights of occupancy or property in the village or land in the manner defined in Sections 48, 49, and 51 of Regulation VIII of 1793, and Section 14 Regulation I, of 1801, and not in reference to tenures which originated with the original engager or his successors, or which he could set aside as provided by Section 51 of Regulation VIII of 1793, but, nevertheless, the phrase "hereditary transferable property in the land" was liable to considerable misconstruction inasmuch as it was considered to apply to all tenures which the holders had come to the possession of by purchase. The Board of Revenue in paras. 114 to 125 of their letter to Government dated the 13th March 1838, forwarding draft of a Sale Law by Mr. Walters pointed out and discussed this liability to misconstruction. In pursuance of the principle laid down in Section 30, Regulation XI of 1822 khoodkasht tenures created since the Decennial Settlement were likewise declared liable to be annulled and the latter part of Section 32 provided as follows :—"Nor shall the said rule be construed to authorize any purchaser as aforesaid to eject a khoodkasht kudeemee ryot or resident or hereditary cultivator having a prescriptive right of occupancy." This can only apply to those khoodkasht ryots who held their lands at or before the Settlement, and whose right of occupancy on payment of rent, according to a fixed rule, is guaranteed by Section 60 of Regulation VIII of 1793. The wording of the Section it should be observed gave rise to considerable doubt and misapprehension as to the precise nature of the tenure which it was intended to protect from annulment, since it has been contended that tenures which have passed through more than one generation would acquire the character of an hereditary khoodkasht tenure. This could not however be the correct interpretation since a tenure in one case might pass through three generations the time that another has not passed through one, and it would be giving preference, not by the length of possession, but by the varying rate of annual mortality which might prevail among the occupiers of the tenure. Such an interpretation besides would be most indefinite and inconsistent with the principles clearly and broadly laid down in Section 30. The doubts and uncertainties which the provisions of Section 32, Regulation XI of 1812 gave rise to, and which were alluded to in the Board's letter referred to above, so far as the village zemindars, &c., were concerned, were cleared up by Act XII. of 1841, and, subsequently, by Act I of 1845, and the classes of tenures which the first portion of Section 32, Regulation XI of 1822 intended to protect, were clearly defined in Section 26 of the Act :—*First*.—Tenures which were held as istemrari or mocurrari, at a fixed rent more than twelve years before the Permanent Settlement. *Secondly*.—Tenures existing at the time of the Decennial Settlement, which have not been or may not be, proved to be liable to increase of assessment, on the grounds stated in Section 58, Regulation VIII of 1793.—*Section* 26, *Act I of* 1845. The khoodkasht tenures were, however, left with as great liability to misunderstanding as in the latter part of Section 32, Regulation XI of 1822 ; but that the Legislature only meant to protect kudeemee khoodkasht tenures having rights of occupancy at fixed rates, or at rents assessable according to fixed rates, *viz*., such as existed at or before the Settlement, and not created subsequently, may be gathered from the observations of the President in Council in the table of remarks upon the Sale Law of 1841, in reference to the suggestions of the Landholders' Society upon this class of tenures. The table was forwarded to the Government of Bengal, with the letter of the Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 10th February 1840. Act I of 1845 introduced two other important exceptions to the class of exempted tenures, which Regulation XI of 1822 did not contain, *viz*., *bona fide* leases in perpetuity for the clearing of jungle and farms granted in good faith and at fair rents for terms not exceeding twenty years, with the sanction and approval of the Collector.

It will be thus seen that the occupancy right as now understood, that is to say, continuous possession and cultivation of land for 12 years creating the right of occupancy, was not known or recognized prior to the enactment of Act X of 1859. We give two extracts from the minutes of Warren Hastings and Sir John Shore, afterwards Lord Teignmouth, which throw sufficient light on the subject. Warren Hastings, writing in 1776, says :—"It is to be observed also that there are two kinds of ryots. The more valuable are those who reside in one fixed spot, where they have built themselves substantial houses or derived them by inheritance from their fathers. These men will suffer much before they abandon their habitations, and therefore they are made to suffer much; but, when once forced to quit them, they become vagrant ryots. The vagrant ryots have it in their power in some measure to make their own terms with the zemindars. They take land at an under rent and hold it for one season; the zemindar then increases their rent or exacts more from them than their agreement, and the ryots either desert, or, if they continue, they hold their land at a rent lower than the established rate of the country." Sir John Shore, in his famous Revenue Minute, which, as Harington tells us, formed the basis of Regulation VIII of 1793, and which was written in June 1789, remarks :—

"Pottahs to the *khoodkasht* ryots, or those who cultivate the land of the village, where they reside, are generally given without limitation of period, and express that they are to hold the lands, paying the rents from year to year. Hence the right of occupying originates ; and it is equally understood, as a prescriptive law, that the ryots who hold by this tenure, cannot relinquish any part of the lands in their possession or change the species of cultivation, without a forfeiture of the right of occupancy, which, however, is rarely insisted upon : the zemindars demand and exact the difference. I understand also that this right of occupancy is admitted to extend to the heirs of those who enjoy it. *Pykasht* ryots are those who cultivate the lands of villages where they do not reside, and hold their lands upon a more indefinite tenure. The pottahs to them are generally granted with a limitation in point of time. Where they deem the terms unfavorable, they repair to some other spot."

The Acting Collector of Rajshahye, writing in August 1811, has the following :—"What constitutes the khoodkasht ryot is, I believe, little understood. From the best information I can obtain, it may be defined by the residence of the ryot in the village in which he cultivates. He and his forefathers may have cultivated lands in an adjoining village for hundreds of years, still, as far as regards the lands in that village, he can only be considered as a pykasht ryot and, as such, a tenant-at-will."

We appeal to Sir Ashley Eden to say whether viewing the question historically or legally there is room for doubt that the occupancy ryot is a creature of Act X of 1859.

## THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

THE Bengal petition to Parliament regarding the Vernacular Press Act, which is a calm, temperate, and argumentative document, has at last been forwarded. We have received a copy of the full report of the late Meeting, which besides the speeches delivered on the occasion and the petition referred to contains the authorized translations of the articles from the Vernacular papers, on which the Act is partly founded, with unofficial translations for comparison and with remarks upon the real character of the articles condemned. We will notice some of these translations. The first article is taken from the *Sadharani*, in which the writer deplored the Fall of Plevna, and incidentally on the misfortune of a nation when it loses the national prestige, and instanced the condition of the people of India. The second is the now notorious squib of the *Sulava Samachar*. The third is an extract from the *Sadharani* on "spurious

loyalty," in which the writer shews up the Government for its inconsistancy in making pledges and not fulfilling them. The fourth is an article from the same paper on the result of the trial of the Fenwa cases. We give below the official and unofficial translations of the last article :

*Official Translation*

The *Sadharani* of the 4th March makes the following remarks in the course of an Editorial headed " the Final Decision in the Fenuah Cases." It neither bespeaks a cultivated taste, nor is it agreeable to have constantly to write against Government. But in view of the arbitrary acts which have become common in these days we should be wanting in our duty if we passed them over without any protest. The people were hitherto proud of the justice administered in the High Court. In seeking to shield a rash, oppressive and unprincipled European Civilian, Government has now brought that Court into contempt, and struck a blow at that root of British justice. Government has thus worked its own ruin ; and yet if after this, the people are found to express discontent, the Anglo-Indian editors will brand the Bengalis with such epithets as ungrateful, disloyal, scurrilous, and what not.

As to the final Judgement of the High Court in this case, it is observed that perhaps a decision so strange was never passed in even the most barbarous country in the world. It is first taken for granted that there has been no illegality in the proceedings, and then punishment is inflicted on many innocent persons, on the strength of this supposition. There is not a doubt, that the fame of British justice is gone for ever. There is no justice in this country.

*Unofficial Translation*

It neither bespeaks a cultivated taste nor is it agreeable to have constantly to write against Government. But in view of the arbitrary acts which have become common in these days, we should be wanting in our duty if we passed them over without any protest. The people were hitherto proud of the justice administered in the High Court. In seeking to shield a rash, oppressive and unprincipled European Civilian, Government has now brought that Court into contempt, and struck a blow at the root of British justice. Government has thus worked its own ruin and yet if, after this, the people are found to express discontent, the Anglo-Indian editors will brand the Bengalis with such epithets as ungrateful, disloyal, scurrilous, and what not.

Long ago we wrote about the Fenuah case. Our readers may remember that the Sahibs of the factory wanted to have an embankment opened up by force. The ryots resisted and they stretched themselves upon the *bund*. In order to frighten them, the Sahibs fired blank cartridges, but this proving of no effect, bullets were regularly used. In the Court the ryots deposed that they saw a gun in the hand of the Barah Sahib. The Barah Sahib, however, in his deposition said that he had no gun with him but the Chota Sahib had one. A great confusion ensued. Those who said that the Barah Sahib had a gun with him were charged with perjury. At first the case was heard by Mr. Badcock, then it was transferred to the Court of Mr. Sarson. After the deposition of seven witnesses had been taken, the case was again transferred to the Court of Mr. Veasey. It was not found necessary to transfer it again, inasmuch as Mr. Veasey sentenced the helpless ryots to six months, imprisonment. All this was the work of the well-known Mr. Kirkwood. An appeal was preferred in the High Court against these partial and illegal proceeding. In the appeal the Government, whatever object it might have had in view took up the cause of one party.

The Counsel for the Government made too much of this matter. After this, the Government Counsel, with the sanction of the High Court, appeared in the case not because he had any legal right to do so, but because he was actuated by self-interest and he frankly declared that his principal object was to exonerate a Government Officer from unfounded accusations. However, for many days the discussion went on regarding the legality of Mr. Kirkwood's proceedings. At last the High Court decided that it was of no use to discuss this question. They took it for granted, that the proceedings had been all along quite legal and that there was no legal objection against the judgment of the lower Court. The Judges of the High Court took all this for granted and found the helpless ryots to be guilty of the charge, but they were of opinion that the punishment they had already undergone was sufficient, for the Counsel, for the Government had expressed an opinion, that he had no objection to such a finding.

As to the final judgment of the High Court in the case it is observed that perhaps a desision so strange was never passed in even the most barbarous country in the world. It is first taken for granted that there has been no illegality in the proceedings, and then punishment is inflicted on a number of innocent persons on the strength of this supposition. There is not a doubt that the fame of British justice is gone for ever.

But it will not do for us to remain unconcerned any longer. There is no justice in the country. Now for some time we must create an agitation in England. We hope the Associations of Calcutta will join and create an agitation on this subject, in the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland.

The fifth is an article from the *Hindu Hitoishini*. We give the two translations for comparison :

*Official Translation of the Hindu Hitaishini of the 10th March 1877.*

This paper blames the English for the increase in this country of the vices of drinking and gambling, inasmuch as Government, when it saw prospects of a profitable income from liquors, gave the sale of intoxicating drugs a stimulus. Both Hindus and Mahomedans turned away from trade in liquors, and ex-communication was often the result in case of any decent person engaging in it. Dr. Wise, of Dacca, has in his report clearly shown that, whereas there was only one liquor-shop in Dacca before, there are a hundred now. Christians have been the source and origin of the introduction of drink, thereby sending many of this country to ruin, and numerous are the instances which can be cited to support this. Government profits have verily increased tenfold, but only at the expense of the ruin of the natives, for drink destroys more than gambling. Who will not feel grieved at seeing the country in such a state? Nothing can be done in the matter, until Government consents to forego its profits, and it does not tend to the well-being and glory of the ruling power to see it becoming rich at the expense of the subject.

*Unofficial translation of the whole article.*

Evil effects of drinking It chills one's blood (literally dries one's blood) to contemplate the terrible evils which drink is creating in our midst. Even immediately after the first arrival of the English in this country, there were hardly more than one or two gentlemen in any village who used to drink, and amongst the lower orders, there was perhaps an individual here and there who would smoke *ganja*. But they had a very bad repute in society. After this, when Government found that there was a very good means of gain in it, it began to encourage the liquor traffic. If we are now to compare the past with the present, it would seem as if a *yuga* had intervened, so completely are times altered. We have heard, and Dr. Wise also has clearly shewn in his report, that whereas there was only one liquor shop in Dacca before, there are a hundred now. Good Mussulmans and the Krishna—Mantri Hindus considered it a sin even to touch wine ; their descendants are now founders and protectors of grog-shops. Persons of respectable families never owned any grogshops and if they were in any way connected with such an establishment they were exposed to ob'oquy and not unoften excommunicated. Now-a-days wine is considered as one of the principal articles of trade and it has become the guardian divinity of almost every household. The Salgram Chakra (symbol of Vishnu) is not now so much honored as wine. This wine is the index of the modern civilization of the west. A person will not be honored in the society of our educated men unless he has learnt to drink. The number of drunkards is gradually increasing both among Hindus and Mussulmans. Christians have been mainly instrumental in propagating a taste for wine. They themselves have not been ruined by it, but are encompassing the ruin of others. Once on a time a rich man of Nabobpore had a certain disease in his thighs and legs. A doctor advised him to rub brandy over those places. The patient did not at first consent to the proposal, but being quite helpless, he at last agreed to it which however made him very uneasy. In a seperate room he would have his body rubbed over with spirituous liquors. The servant who performed this duty was never allowed to touch his food, or the things connected with the performance of his devotioual duties. He would change his dress at once and would not enter any other room without having had his bath Now, if you enquire you will find that his descendants are the slaves of intoxicating drinks ; they do not consider their mouth or their homes purified without such drink.

A few days ago, a muktear became so excited with drink in the house of a prostitute that while he was coming down the steps from the upper to the ground floor he lost his footing and rolled down to the floor below. He received such terrible injuries on the head and other parts of his body that he became quite insensible. He is now under medical treatment but his life is said to be in a precarious state. On another occasion, a doctor who was rolling in a drain close by a street, was about to fall under a carriage but was saved through the kindness of a gentleman. At another time, a Deputy Magistrate, who came to Dacca for an examination could not appear on the second day of the examination as he was quite drunk. Moreover, if any body were to note all the horrible things that have occurred at Dacca in consequence of drinking, it would form a work as bulky as the Bengal Administration Report. At the corner of almost every lane and by the sides of streets and in bazaars there are shops selling *ganjas* or opium or intoxicating liquors. All classes of people resort to these places by numbers. The vendors cheat them out of their money in various ways. Although the Government has increased the excise duty and the license fee, still the number of drunkards and the taste for intoxicating drink, instead of decreasing, have been increasing. The profits of Government have, no doubt, increased, tenfold now, but then a great number of the people of this country are being ruined. Drink does greater injury to the people than gambling. There is nothing else but drink, which can do all sorts of injury, pecuniary physical and mental. We have seen some very influential men die at a premature age, from the effects of drinking ; some others have become completely useless ; and there are others who through the same cause are on the high road to ruin. Who will not feel grieved at seeing the country in such a wretched state? The Government cannot do anything to prevent this evil until it consents to forego the profits it obtains from spirituous liquors.

It does not become the ruling bowor to gain money by a means so detrimental to the interest of its subjects, and so opposed to humane principles of government.

The sixth article is taken from the *Pratikar*, Moorshedabad :

*Official Translation.*

*Pratikar June 1st* 1877.—This paper deploring the wretched state of privation to which the natives of the country have been brought attributes it to the Europeans, who have as it were, tied them down hard-and-fast with chains of iron-Manchester has become the weaver ; Hamilton the goldsmith ; Gosnell and Rogers have come in for their shares ; in fact the manufacture of everything used here has been monopolized by European makers. All our money is transported across the seas for the support of English families.

In this way about 90 crores of Rupees are annually taken away to England.

*Remarks by the Unofficial Translator.*

The extract is thoroughly misleading. The object of the article is not to abuse the English, but to rouse in the minds of the Bengalis a desire to promote manufacturing industry in their own country. This will appear from the concluding paragraph of the article in question, and which is given below :—

" Bengal takes the upper hand in every movement but she does not even once reflect upon the circumstance, that, as regards commerce and manufactures, she is inferior to the rest of India. When will Bengalis cease to think of purchasing Zemindaries and of leading the life of the Zemindar, resting on the bed of ease and comfort. (Literally reclining with ease on a high pillow) ?

It is unquestionable that very often a person becomes more prosperous by commerce and manufactures than by being a Zemindar. If the Zemindars of Bengal do not join their countrymen in promoting commerce and manufactures their assuredly Bengal will never rise in the scale of nations. The Zemindars constitute our source of hope. The other classes in Bengal have no strength left to them ; all are begging for food door to door.

If the Zemindars co-operate in promoting the development of commerce and manufacture then a (new) means of livelihood will be created for the natives of the country ; and there is a possibility of the Zemindars themselves gaining considerable profits (thereby) We say to the Zemindars " if you mean to save your countrymen if you want to shed lustre upon your country, if you want to sleep in tranquillity, then wake from your slumber ; and by helping the cause of commerce and manufactures rouse your moribund country."

The seventh is an article from *Biswa Dut*. The unofficial translator says : "The extract is misleading. The whole tenor of the article is to find fault with the descriptions of such English writers, who do not always give faithful representations of things." The eighth is an extract from an article of the *Dacca Prokash*. The following is the official translation :

*Dacca Prokash, 2nd September* 1877.—Who needs to be told that by reason of this English administration or contact with the British most part of the people have become destitute ; that the manufacturing class suffer extreme want ; and that the weavers cannot even earn sufficient to provide themselves with their daily meals, though they work day and night. The country is being daily impoverished through this enlightened and British *cunning*.

The unofficial translator makes the following remarks :

" These words occur in the course of a long article extending over five columns of the *Dacca Prakash*, the object of the article being to show that Mr. Eden is wrong in thinking that the condition of the Bengal peasantry has improved. That portion of the article from which the extract has been made is given below. Who does not know that by the system of English administration in vogue and by contact with Europeans, the vast majority of the people of this country have become destitute the manufacturing classes suffer extreme want the weavers, even by working day and night cannot earn sufficient to provide themselves with their daily meals. The country is being daily impoverished through English civilzation and English astuteness (not cunning as in the Government extract which again is italicized quite unnecessarily.) Every bodys necessities and expenditure have greatly increased, and yet, at the same time their income is not what it used to be. It has become very difficult for middle class gentlemen to incur the expenses due to their station and position—and indeed it has become difficult with them to maintain or support their families. The great majority of men having no other opening left to them are obliged to hanker after employment yet in spite of their most strenuous efforts they are not often successful. In short the peasantry of this country have become so poor have been reduced to a condition where they are dependant for their living so to speak upon their daily alms that every ordinary contingency leads them to incur debt. If over and above all this a famine or some such calamity breaks out then they are absolutely deprived of all means of dragging on their existence. In these days how may people die from the visitations of famines ; but formerly the state of the country was very different. In those days almost everybody had considerable stock in hand. If there was a bad harvest for a year or two people did not then as is the case at present die of starvation.

The ninth extract is an article from the *Bharut Mihir*, the official and unofficial translations of which we give below :

*Official Translation.*

*Bharut Mihir, 20th September* 1877.—How often are we to write that the British are our benefactors? How often shall we vex the loyalty by a reference to every thing, that shows its sincerity? Before taking upon himself to reprove us, Mr. Eden should first set his own house in order. What heart will not be pained to see the spectacle of educated Native crying for want of food, while every month batches of Englishmen, fresh from England, are taking possession of all the appointments in the public service. Or what political economy is this that would sanction the retention in the service of highly paid Europeans, while famine and destitution raged in the land, and people groaned under the burden of taxation? why should Moula Box be hanged for an offence for which a Heenan receives only 18 month's imprisonment? Why should Surendra Nath be dismissed for a fault which was a hundredth part lighter than that for which a Jack or John receives promotion? That you should despise me as a worthless thing not to be touched, while I should worship you with flowers and sandal-wood, is a thing which nature never heard before.

*Un-Official Translation.*

If anybody says, there is not the slightest dissatisfaction in the country, not a single man's face is sad, all are satisfied, all are happy, there is nothing to be said against the past acts of the Government, nothing, against its present acts, then it will be our duty to reprobate such a man as a liar, as one who has not given a faithful representation of the actual state of things. And such a man is no true friend of the English. What is the use of newspapers if they observe certain state of feeling in the community, and represent quite a different state of feeling before the Government or the public at large. Would it not be a misnomer to call newspapers, the organs of the public, if the journalist could not represent the grievance of the people in a free and unfettered manner? Is it necessary to repeat *ad nauseam* that the English are our benefactors? How often shall we abuse loyalty by reiterating on every occasion when we discuss public questions that we are loyal? Let Mr. Eden reform his own house before taking upon himself to reprove us. What heart will not be pained to see the spectacle of educated natives crying for want of food, while every month batches of Englishmen, fresh from England, are taking possession of all the appointments in the public service? Or what political economy is this, that would sanction the retention in the service of highly paid Europeans, while famine and destitution raged in the land and peopled groaned under the burden of vexation? Why should Mowla Bux be hanged for an offence for which a Heenan receives only 18 months' imprisonment? Why should Surendra Nath be dismissed for a fault for which a Jack or John receives promotion? That you should

despise me as a worthless thing not to be touched, while I should worship you with flowers and sandal wood, is a thing which nature never heard before. We are no boors though we may be worthless in many respects. We can well appreciate the benefits we have received from Englishmen. Perhaps no conquering race have ever been so generous to a conquered people as have the English rulers been to the people of this country. But is that a reason why we should hold that they are impartial; that what they promise that they always fulfil. Are we to hold our tongues when Fullers maltreat us? Are we not to lay our representations before the public when the interests of justice are interfered with? We give publicity to all this, in the hope that Government, on being informed of our grievances, will redress them. If it were not that we, were a subject race, such expression of our grievances would never have been considered as amounting to disloyalty. Having worshipped so long in the depths of our hearts the virtuous Victoria, we are at last told that we are disloyal! Mr. Eden has not done a meritorious act by causing pain to the hearts of so many people and by reproving a whole country.

The tenth is an extract from the *Shome Prokash* on the gagging of the Vernacular Press. The eleventh is an extract from the *Sahachur*. The official translation is as follows:

The *Sahachar* of the 2nd July writes the following in the course of an editorial headed the Strength and Duty of England. There are many points of resemblance noticeable between England and Carthage of the ancient times. In wealth, naval and commercial supremacy and in military skill, both are alike. Carthage fell, and the causes which brought about her fall are in full operation in England at the present day. The fall of Carthage was due to her fighting with mercenary troops and the existence of fierce factions among the leaders of her people. Does not England present the same spectacle to-day? She is like Carthage, the home of liberty, and, like her, she is an eye-sore to all despotic Governments. The supremacy of England in naval warfare is, however, now a matter of question, while it is almost certain that on land she is no match for the army of any of the great Powers of Europe. The present is a critical time for her, possessed as she is of influence, but without adequate resources of war.

The un-official translator makes the following remarks:

The following passage occurs in this very article from which the extract has been made:—

"It is not because we are the subjects of England that we desire to see her great and powerful. Read the annals of the human race. *No age, no country has ever witnessed any system of administration or government like that of the British. The downfall of the British Empire will be the precursor of many evils to the human race.*"

At the head of the translations noticed above occurs the following note:

As has been remarked in the Petition thirty-six extracts have been made from the Vernacular journals of Bengal. The extracts have been made from fifteen journals, the number of Vernacular journals in Bengal being 35. (See Bengal Administration Report for 1876-77 page 370.) It is worthy of remark that out of the thirty-six, four extracts have been made from the *Samaj Darpan*, a journal which ceased to exist about eight or nine months ago. Leaving the extracts from the *Samaj Darpan* out of consideration, the Act may be said to rest on thirty-two extracts made from fourteen different journals.

Let the impartial reader now judge whether the articles, of which translations are given above, are seditious libels against the Government, whether the opinions expressed in them do not find utterance in Anglo-Indian and English papers, and whether they are calculated to foment disaffection to British rule. He will also see how inaccurate impressions are apt to be conveyed by isolated extracts from the articles given by the Goverament translator, which do not necessarily give a full idea of the spirit of the writers. There is then much in the Bengali idiom, which is not unoften missed by a foreign translator. Above all, we must confess that the extracts given do not make out a case for the Vernacular Press Act.

## THE VALUE-PAYABLE PARCELS SYSTEM.

THE uninitiated may be informed that the Value-Payable Parcels System is a modification of the ordinary system, under which parcels of a limited weight and size are conveyed by the post office from one part of the country to another, the cost of conveyance being paid either by the sender or the addressee. It is not a substitute for the ordinary parcel system, but a modified form of the ordinary system under which parcels of a certain size and weight are proposed to be conveyed by the post office for those who may choose to avail themselves of it on the payment of the usual postage of parcels and a commission of 2 per cent. on payment of the value of the contents to the sender. At present the modified system applies to parcels for inland transmission, and the Director General of the Post Office proposes to extend the system to overland parcels evidently by a special arrangement with the English Post Office, which does not receive heavy parcels for transmission to India. A long controversy is raging as to the necessity and utility of this extension, and though the public for whose benefit it is intended have expressed no desire for the extension of the system, the Government at the instance of the Director General of the Post Office would seem to be anxious to force it upon them, whether they will or no. The Trades Associations of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay have strongly protested against the measure. The Director General insists upon the introduction of the measure on the ground that it will be a boon to the European residents in India, employes on the Railways and on Indigo, Tea, and Coffee plantations, but these have neither asked for, nor supported, it. Although those for whose benefit it is intended are silent about it, its introduction is evidently proposed from an observation of the practice in some of the European countries. But whatever the advantages which may have attended the system in Prussia or any other European country, it cannot be denied that it is wrong on principle to employ the Post Office for a service, which legitimately belongs to private enterprise. Let us, however, consider what advantages the proposed system is calculated to confer upon the community, and how it is proposed to accomplish the end. The Director General says:

"The value-payable system provides for the transmission by the Post Office of a parcel (paid or unpaid) with the condition of realising from the addressee on delivery the value of its contents as declared by the sender, and the payment to him (sender) of the amount so realised less a commission of about 2 per cent; thus facilitating intercourse between customers and tradesmen by saving the addressee or customer from the trouble of a separate remittance and the sender (or tradesman) from the risk and trouble of collecting his money."

Reading the above with what follows we are reminded that the average weight of an overland parcel from Great Britain to India is 6lbs, thus shewing the very small character of the transactions for which the overland parcel post is to be used; the value of the amount payable will be limited to £10, and the cost of transmission from England (6d per lb for books and 1s. per lb for other articles) is sufficiently heavy to deter the general public from having a too frequent recourse to this mode of conveyance. Then, in what way will the public be benefited? It is believed that they would have recourse to this mode of conveyance in rare cases, that is to say in obtaining goods not available in India and for which expense will be no consideration, and also when things of great value may be comprised in small weight. Merchants and highly-paid officers in the two services, who may have amongst them men of fastidious taste, and are not satisfied with articles locally available, may obtain goods from home on indent or may make special arrangement with the tradesmen at "home" on their periodical visits to Europe. These persons do not care for expence and may well afford to pay dearly for rare articles of European manufacture more to please their fancy and taste than to supply a necessity. Men not blessed with the superfluities of life will scarcely think it prudent to obtain at a heavy cost articles of ordinary use in the shape of apparel and jewellery; bulky goods are out of the question. The only inducement which might tempt them to have recourse to this mode of transit is economy; articles bought at first hand from the place of manufacture might be obtained at a less cost from the original supplier than what they might have to pay to the importer. Assuming this to be the case it is one thing to pay on delivery and another to pay leisurely. It is a mistake to suppose that goods bought direct from the English tradesman will be necessarily cheaper. From the experience we have of the principle on which English dealers transact business, we have good reasons to believe that it is more economical to make purchases here than to bring out goods on order unless the purchaser has the opportunity to make his own selection and to conclude his own terms by personal communication. But it is not every body who can do so, and, therefore, the benefit of the system will be very limited, indeed.

English tradesmen and merchants when they send out their goods for sale here or elsewhere will be content with any profit on the cost price, but if their articles are ordered out direct they will we fear add so many charges and keep such a large margin for profit that on arrival the indentor will be thankful if he recovers his money's worth. In 75 per cent. of such cases the value of the articles obtained on indent will be found equal to if not higher than local value. There is another view of the case which ought not to be lost sight of. Taking for granted that the benefits promised are secured and all classes of the residents here obtain their supplies of some of the necessaries and most of the luxuries from England, the result will be that the local dealers will take care not to keep a supply of what there may be no demand for, and when the stock falls short or a supply is immediately wanted it may not be had either for love or money, and the demander must wait at least two months before he can hope to have his want supplied. Not to speak of the incompatibility of the occupation of a department of the public service acting as bill-collector and commission agent the motive for this innovation is not clear. There would have been some excuse for the introduction of this measure if it held out any prospect of appreciable increase to Government revenue, but we cannot reckon upon it when the service will accommodate but a very limited section of the community. Mr. Monteath will do well to look to the improvement of his department by correcting its defects and the abuses which exist in it, instead of wasting public time by fostering up fancy projects.

## THE SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

AN interesting meeting of the Science Association took place on Wednesday last, Dr. Rajendralala Mitra presiding. The Chairman called upon the Secretary to lay on the table the letter of Babu Kallykissen Tagore offering a Government security for Rs. 25,000 with undrawn interest for the improvement of the Laboratory of the Association. We give below an abstract of the proceedings, which then followed:

The Very Rev. Father Lafont, in proposing the 1st Resolution, said—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—It is with great pleasure that I propose this motion to the meeting and my pleasure is enhanced by the fact that the noble donor has by this donation removed to a great extent an idea which, I am sorry to say, is current amongst us, viz., that the natives of this country are liberal only towards Government and when they may expect in return some distinction or title. Now, gentlemen, here we have a Bengali gentleman giving in a princely manner to his own countrymen and with no other reward in view but that which the consciousness of a good action always carries along with itself. He has given this munificent donation not to please the Government, not for the sake of any honor or distinction, but from a patriotic desire to serve his country by assisting in the diffusion of scientific education. This magnificent donation deserves praise for another reason and that is the object for which it is given: the word *enlightened* is but too often abusively coupled with the word *liberality*, but in this case never were these two words better and more appropriately used. Babu Cally Kissen Tagore has made this generous gift because he appreciates the useful, patriotic, and noble object of our Association, because he feels that if it is properly nursed it is destined to prove a mighty engine of national advancement. We praise in Europe, men like Count du Moncel, who devote their large fortunes to scientific pursuits, but the Count being himself a student of science enjoys the results of his own wealth; here the donor, with a disinterestedness, which cannot be too highly commended, has generously put in the hands of others the means of scientific investigation and is contented by the thought of having assisted in a useful national undertaking. Babu Cally Kissen has set a great and good example to his wealthy countrymen. Let us hope that it will not be lost, and that he will have the glory of having paved the way for many more of these truly enlightened and princely donations. He concluded by moving the following Resolution:

"That this meeting receives with great pleasure the intelligence of the gift of Babu Kalli Kissen Tagore of Rs. 25,000 for the improvement of the Laboratory of the Association and of the subscription by him of Rs. 300 per annum in aid of its funds, the Association desires that the most cordial thanks of the Association be conveyed to the Babu for his enlightened and munificent liberality."

Babu Surendranath Banerjea said he had great pleasure in seconding the resolution which had just been moved by the Revd. Father Lafont. They had

heard that Baboo Kali Kissen Tagore had subscribed 25,000 Rs. in aid of the funds of the Association. Now this was the largest sum that had yet been subscribed; and not only was it the largest subscription they had yet had, but it was much larger than any of their previous subscriptions. He did not make that statement by way of invidious comparison, but he gave utterance to a simple statement of fact. They all knew that Babu Kali Kissen's munificence was unbounded, and that he had spent thousands upon thousands upon different public objects, but it was reserved for the Science Association to make the largest call upon his princely liberality and munificence. If this donation was any indication of the growing interest felt by the aristocracy of this country in the cause of science, then it augured well for the prosperity of their institution, it augured well for the cause of science, and the welfare of the country at large. To those who had money, it must be the highest of all privileges to spend it for the noblest of purposes, the benefit and enlightenment of their less favoured countrymen. They had met there that afternoon to give expression to a natural feeling of gratitude, but to Babu Kali Kissen himself, his highest source of gratification lay in the consciousness that he was turning his opportunities to the best account and that he was the centre of so much usefulness. Nevertheless it would be to him an additional source of gratification and pleasure to learn that his magnificent liberality, his princely munificence, were duly appreciated and honoured by his educated countrymen, and not the least by the lovers and promoters of science who had assembled there that afternoon.

Motion put and carried by acclamation.

Moulavi Abdul Lutief Khan Bahadur said he hoped the meeting would agree with him that it was not sufficient to vote thanks to the munificent donor for his enlightened and princely liberality to the Association. He had done a service to the Association, which marked an era in its history, and he was therefore of opinion that his name should be connected with the Association in some permanent form, which would remind posterity of the obligation under which the Association had been laid by their benefactor. He accordingly moved the following Resolution:

"That Babu Kallykissen Tagore's name be connected with the Association in some permanent form (the nature of which to be hereafter decided by the Committee of Management), as a mark of the appreciation by the Association of his enlightened and princely liberality in aiding the improvement of the Laboratory."

The Revd. Father Lafont heartily seconded the motion. He said that the form in which effect should be given to the proposition might be decided hereafter, but he thought that the meeting should not separate without giving some tangible expression to their gratitude to the princely donor.

The motion was put and carried.

The Hon'ble Kristodas Pal said that although the question of determining the permanent form in which the gratitude of the Association should be shewn to Babu Kallykissen Tagore was deferred for the consideration of the Committee, he was about to submit a proposition, which, he hoped the meeting would agree with him, needed no prolonged deliberation for decision. Babu Kallykissen Tagore had given a most signal and substantial proof of the lively and enlightened interest he took in the advancement and welfare of the Association, and he thought that the members would be only honoring themselves by honoring him with a seat in their governing body. He would accordingly move.

That Babu Kallykissen Tagore be elected a member of the Committee of Management.

The Hon'ble Issurchunder Mitter seconded the motion, which was put and carried.

Thanks were voted to the chair and the meeting dissolved.

Thus ended the proceedings of the evening. The Association performed a most agreeable duty in a most agreeable manner.

## LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE ARE informed that on Saturday last Sir Andrew Clarke on behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy opened the great bridge over the Sutlej with great ceremony and *eclat* including a special service by the Bishop of Lahore. The bridge was named Empress Bridge by Her Majesty's desire and the Indus Valley Railway declared open for traffic.

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ANOTHER calamity has befallen Madras! The Madras Famine Committee in their last annual report state: "Most lamentable accounts are received from the Local Committees and officers of Government of ravages committed by locusts and grasshoppers. Many of these are young, in their wingless state, which shows that the swarms reported some months ago have bred, a contingency which was feared. The Salem and Coimbatore districts are those most affected. The authorities are using means to check the ravages of these insect pests, but meanwhile serious and wide-extending damage is being done."

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THE FOLLOWING telegram has been received from London:

The Under-Secretary of the India Office, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that it was not intended to interfere with the number of troops maintained by the Indian Princes.

This telegram ought to allay the minds of the Native Princes, who have natually been taken by surprise by the publication by the *Englishman* of the Government of India's despatch on the subject. If it was not the object of Govesnment to give effect to the despatch, why was it not contradicted at once? The Government does harm to itself by reticence in matters like this.

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CALCUTTA will be wholly illuminated with gas. The following statement shews the number of gas lamps sanctioned for each ward:

| | Lamps. | | Lamps. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ward No. 1 ... ... | 170 | Ward No. 9 ... .. | 177 |
| ,, No. 2 ... ... | 27 | ,, No. 10 .. .. | 15 |
| ,, No. 3 .. ... | 210 | ,, No. 11 .. ... | 21 |
| ,, No. 4 ... .. | 117 | ,, No. 13 .. ... | 12 |
| ,, No. 5 ... ... | 24 | ,, No. 14 ... ... | 13 |
| ,, No. 6 ... ... | 138 | ,, No. 15 ... ... | 1 |
| ,, No. 7 .. ... | 12 | ,, No. 18 ... .. | 48 |
| ,, No. 8 ... ... | 99 | | |
| TOTAL ... | | | 1,084 |

ON WEDNESDAY last Sealdah was the scene of a most disastrous fire. The hut of a poor woman first caught fire from an accident, and as the wind was high it spread wildly in all directions. Whole bustees extending over about a square mile have been burnt down with a large number of cattle and other valuable property of the poor sufferers. Five children lost their lives, and several persons sustained serious injuries, including some men of the fire-brigade. There is much misery among the poor sufferers, and an appeal has been made to the generous public for help by the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, and the Magistrate of 24-Pergunnahs. We hope this appeal will be promptly responded to by the charitably-disposed. We think the Suburban Municipality, within the precincts of which Sealdah is situate, ought to make a grant from its funds to enable the houseless poor to rebuild their huts. Mr. Forbes, the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality, who has in a very kindly spirit made personal enquiries into the condition of the sufferers, will we hope move the Municipality to sanction this grant.

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WE HAVE received for insertion a copy of the prospectus of the Bengal Branch of the National Indian Association founded by the late Miss Carpenter; we regret that we cannot make room for it on account of its great length. The Committee of the Association numbers several influential and earnest gentlemen with His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor at its head. The object of the Association is to promote female education and the prospectus before us enumerates the several plans which the Committee propose to adopt in furtherance of that object. The Association deserves the sympathy and support of our educated countrymen.

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WE HAVE received the following letter from our Krishnaghur Correspondent:

A deep gloom has been cast over Kishnaghur by the melancholy intelligence of the death of H. Baring Lawford, the late Civil and Sessions Judge of Nudden. The Civil Courts were closed yesterday, out of respect to his memory. Your readers might remember that he went home, on furlough, in April last, soon after making the now celebrated reference in the great Iokenathpore case. The independence and thorough honesty of purpose, which marked his proceedings in that case, raised him greatly in the estimation of the people here. It is believed here that his supersession in the High Court Judgeship was the cause of his departure from this country with a broken heart; he went in the hope of making interest in England. But man proposes, God disposes! It would seem he went home to die in the bosom of his family.!

WE UNDERSTAND that the High Court has disallowed the objection taken by Mr. Charles, Junior Magistrate of Calcutta, in the Shuriff Dufftry's Lane case about the night-soil depot, that the prosecution could not be admitted inasmuch as the sanction of Government was necessary to the prosecution of public servants under the Presidency Magistrates Act. The High Court holds that the Municipal Commissioners are not public servants in the sense of Government servants, and that the objection does not therefore apply.

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MAKE no haste but God speed, is a proverb, the wisdom of which the Government of India fails to understand or realize. Hasty legislation is the besetting fault of the Indian Government. We urged strongly upon the Government not to pass the Civil Procedure Bill in haste as it had many imperfections on its head, but to satisfy the vanity of a single man the Council passed the Bill, and it is now called upon to tinker it at once. Several officers have suggested amendments of the law; some of our contemporaries have also taken up the subject in right earnest. We reproduce the following from the *Civil and Military Gazette*:

One fruitful cause of public inconvenience is the new law relative to the verification of plaints. This verification must under section 52, when not made in the presence of the court, and when a court does not see fit to grant the special permission referred to in Sec. 51, "be signed in the presence of a witness who shall also sign it." The Act further lays down that the court shall examine such witness as to the fact of the signature; consequently, a plaintiff, say at Cachar' wishing to sue a defendant at Lahore, must either attend himself at Lahore, or send some one who has witnessed his signature to depose to this fact. If the claim is a small one, the expense this procedure entails is greater than the case can afford; and as it is more than doubtful that this expense would be allowed as costs in the suit, the plaintiff probably forego his remedy by law and trust to Providence or the honesty of his debtor for the recovery of the money due him. This is a most anomalous state of things, and should be remedied.

We entirely concur.

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THE TIMES' Calcutta Correspondent wields a vast power in England. The English public have not the leisure or inclination to read long accounts of Indian affairs; they are satisfied with the precis which the Calcutta chronicler of the leading journal sends, and this writer has therefore a serious responsibility upon him. The present correspondent is a man of undoubted ability, but he has no experience of India, and above all has little sympathy with the people. He looks at things not unfrequently through the official spectacles, and sometimes takes such distorted views that even the most narrow-minded official hardly sympathizes with him. We refer chiefly to his habitual misrepresentation of the sentiments, opinions, wants and wishes of the people of this country. We are not therefore surprised to see that our sagacious, though erratic, ex-Governor, Sir George Campbell, has taken a fair measure of the mental and moral calibre of the *Times'* Calcutta Correspondent. In his address to his constituents of Kirkcaldy, Sir George said:

"He did not know the correspondent personally, but he was told he was a young gentleman of very slight experience in India. Those who had been in India for twenty or thirty years, were somewhat slow to say that they understood the feelings of one hundred and fifty millions of Hindoos, or of 120,000 native troops, but this young gentleman, the next morning after the order for the Expedition was given, was able to tell quite positively the feeling of those 120,000 native soldiers, and of all the inhabitants in regard to it. The correspondent was suspiciously accurate, for he said that this action would shed lustre on her Majesty's Government. It was very evident that that young gentleman had been 'nobbled' by the Viceroy, Lord Lytton, and his statements were not to be received except on better authority.

As for "nobbling" the *Times'* correspondent, it is not a new charge against the Government of India, and we believe it is not altogether unfounded. The Government used to "nobble" Dr. Smith when he was the *Times'* Correspondent till Lord Northbrook found him out. Some

attempt was made by certain members of Lord Mayo's Government to "nobble' Mr. Routledge, but without success. As for Lord Lytton we believe his Lordship gives the *Times'* Correspondent the same facilities that he offers to other members of the Press.

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WHILE we suspend judgment on the Surat trials, we cannot refrain from calling attention to the following letter of the *Bombay Gazette's* Special Correspondent. He writes :

"A nice little comedy, not of "Errors" but of "Cross Purposes," was enacted at Bulsar on Thursday last. On the case of the two native editors of Surat and four others being called out, there was no witness for the prosecuton ready for examination. An adjournment for eight days was applied for, which Mr. Pherozsha Mehta, on behalf of the defence, vehemently contested, as likely, if granted, to do immense harm to the accused. The public prosecutor asseverated that he was helpless; that two of his witnesses had disappeared from Bulsar; that Mr. Motilal, the Police Inspector, had been sent off at 2 o'clock that morning to hunt them up in Surat; that the whole city was ranged on one side, while on the other stood the Sirkar alone; that there were great difficulties in the way of the prosecution; and that a panacea for them all, he thought, was an adjournment for eight, or even four days, and a transfer of the case back to Surat Mr. Mehta protested eloquently against the application. The Magistrate said the prosecution made the initial mistake of arresting the accused before their case was complete. It was too late, however, to regret it; and the only question he had to consider was whether, in the interests of justice, an adjournment for further inquiry was necessary? The case was, he said, commenced owing to pressure put by the court; and the prosecution never professed to have completed their investigation, besides the matter required time thoroughly to probe it. A substantial case had been established against at least three of the accused; and he thought he should be incurring a grave responsibility if he insisted on proceeding to a decision that day on the imperfect materials before him. He, therefore, adjourned the case until Monday next; and at the request of the public prosecutor, in order to expedite the hearing, agreed to resume proceedings on that day at Surat. The last three accused were admitted to bail in Rs. 5,000 each, while bail for the first three was refused. On behalf of the latter, Mr. Mehta to whom the Magistrate good naturedly rendered every facility, repeated his application that day to Mr. Macpherson, the Session Judge of Surat, who happened to be at Teethul; but it was refused for the present. Later in the day—as though in very mockery of the allegations of the public prosecutor—came a telegram from Police Superintendent from Surat, stating that the witnesses were ready and were coming directly to Bulsar. The Magistrate thereupon cancelled his former order; the accused and the witnesses were warned not to leave Bulsar; and the trial was to proceed there yesterday (Friday.)

May we ask two questins—who put pressure upon the Court, and is the way in which the witnesses seem to be pressed into service by the prosecution consistent with the dignity of British Justice in India? The Court of Directors used to say that it was not enough to do justice, but justice should be so administered that the people shall feel that justice has been done. How beautifully is this noble maxim being carried out in the Surat trials!

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THE FOLLOWING important questions were referred by a Division Bench to the Full Bench of the High Court:

*First.*—whether the ijaradar of a co-sharer of an undivided estate, who has made separate collections from the tenant of the whole estate in respect of his share, can sue to obtain a kabooleut at an enhaneed rent for his share of the tenure, the other co-sharers not being made parties to the suit?

*Second.*—whether the ijaradar of a co-sharer of an entire tenure, who has for some time realized his rent separately in respect of his share, can sue to enhance the rent of that share separately, without joining the other co-sharers of the tenure?

The Full Bench ruled that so long as a tenure is held under a lease from the entire estate, a co-sharer cannot enhance the rent for a part. We give the words of the judgment below:

Of course, if the original lease of the entire tenure is cancelled or put an end to by the consent of all the parties, the co-sharers and the tenant are at liberty to enter into any fresh contracts which the law allows; but no court of justice ought to presume such a cancellation or determination of the lease from the mere fact of a separate payment of rent to one or more of the co-sharers.

The right of one co-sharer to enhance the rent of his share separately must be governed by the same principles as his right to a kabooleut.

The Rent Law, in our opinion, does not contemplate the enhancement of a part of an entire rent; and the enhancement of the rent of a separate share is inconsistent with the continuance of the lease of the entire tenure.

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A QUESTION was raised the other day in the High Court as to whether a Hindu widow can execute a will. The High Court has ruled as follows:

There is no rule of law, that we are aware of which forbids a Hindu widow to make a will of property which belongs exclusively to herself. She cannot, except for special purpose, alienate her husband's estate by will or otherwise, because she has only a life interest in it. But she is only like other persons in that respect; and the grant of probate to the executor in this case will not prejudice in any way the objector's rights, if the property really belonged to him, and not to the testatrix.

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IT APPEARS from certain papers, which has boen laid before us, that Dr. Wilson, Civil Medical Officer of Purulia, has managed to make himself very unpopular so much so that the people of that station has petitioned Government for his transfer. He is accused of harshness and want of judgment. In 1876 the Government took a serious notice of his conduct towards a subordinate of his, a native doctor. In this case the Government passed the following orders in a letter to the Surgeon General:

It appears from Mr. Wilson's letter No 379 of the 14th July last to the address of the Deputy Surgeon General that on the morning of that day Mr. Wilson found the Native Doctor absent from duty and on sending a message to enquire as to the cause of his absence, Mr. Wilson received an answer from the Native Doctor to the effect that he was unable from sickness to attend to his work. More than one message to the same purport was sent by Mr. Wilson to the Native Doctor and the same answer was returned. Mr. Wilson was previously well aware that the Native Doctor was more or less ill but instead of going to see the man to attend upon him, if really so ill as to be incapable of performing his duty or to satisfy himself as to the sufficiency of the reasons given by the Native Doctor as to his non-attendance Mr. Wilson apparently entertained the belief that there was exaggeration in the Native Doctor's statement and consequently refused to go and see him and suspended him sending him at the same time a message to that effect.

The Lieutenant-Governor considers that his view of the facts as stated above shows a serious failure of judgment as well as of duty on the part of Mr Wilson and that he allowed irritation at the previous conduct of the Native Doctor to warp his judgment and influence his proceedings on that occasion.

Although the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to acknowledge that afterwards Mr. Wilson did attend the Native Doctor and did all that could be done by care and skill to save his life, it is obvious that Mr. Wilson ought to have satisfied himself of the real state of the case in the first instance before passing an order of suspension and he should have known that if the man who was known to be ill had really become worse as alleged, an order of suspension might have a dangerous effect.

Under these circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that more serious notice than the censure which had been already communicated by you must be taken of Mr. Wilson's conduct in this case and his Honor therefore directs as a mark of the deep censure of Government, Mr. Wilson shall not be permitted to draw for a period of 6 months from the 9th Instant the increased rate of salary to which he would have been entitled from that date as a Civil Medical Officers of 10 years standing. Mr. Wilson will continue to draw his present salary of Rs. 455 per mensem and not Rs. 550 per mensem to which he would otherwise have been entitled from the above date up to the 8th of March 1877.

The petition which has been lately submitted by the inhabitants of Purulia against Dr. Wilson seems to show that the sharp notice which the Government took of his conduct in 1876 has had no effect upon him.

---

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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# Government Notifications

## Calcutta Gazette,—*June* 5, 1878.

GENERAL—Mr. H. B. Beames, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, is allowed furlough for one year under Section 7, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 13th July next, or from any subsequent date on which he may avail himself of it.

Moulvie Abdool Kurreem, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Furreedpore on leave, is transferred temporarily to the Sudder Station of the Backergunge district.

Lord H. Ulick Browne, Commissioner of the Rajshahye and Cooch Behar Division, is appointed to act as a Member of the Board of Revenue during the absence, on leave, of Mr. H. L. Dampier, or until further orders.

Mr. W. S. Wells, Officiating Commissioner, Burdwan, is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Rrjshahye and Cooch Behar Division during the absence, on deputation, of Lord H. Ulick Browne, or until further orders.

Mr. F. H. Pellew, Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Hoogly, is appointed to act until further orders as Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

Mr. R. D. Hime, Magistrate and Collector, Beerbhoom, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Hoogly during the absence, on leave, of Sir W. J. Herschel, or until further orders.

Mr. W. Kemble, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Purneah, on leave, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Bhagulpore during the absence, on leave, of Mr. H. J. Newbery, or until further orders.

Baboo Joggeshur Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hoogly, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Shahabad district.

Mr. C. J. O'Donnel, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Depty Collector, in charge of the Sewan Division of the Sarun district, is also appointed to have temporary charge of the Gopalgunge Division of that district, with effect from the date on which he took charge of it.

Mr. C. J. S. Faulder, Assistant Magistrate and Collector in charge of the Gopalgunge Division of the Sarun district, is posted temporarily to the Sudder Station of that district with effect from the date on which he joined his appointment at Chupra.

Mr. R. H. Greaves, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Khoorda, Pooree, on leave, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Backergunge district.

Mr. J. Kelleher, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Maldah, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Pubna during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. W. V. G. Taylor, or until further orders.

The services of Mr. R. H. Anderson, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Kooshtea Division of the Nuddea district, are placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Mr. D. W. M. Testro, Officiating Magistrate and Collector Gya, is allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code with effect from the date on which he may be relieved of his present appointment.

Mr. E. J. Barton, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Backergunge on leave is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Gya until further orders.

Mr. C. H. Vowell Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Rajshahye is appointed to act until further orders in the Second Grade of Magistrates and Collectors *vice* Mr. H. S. Beadon.

Mr. H. Farrer, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jajpore, Cuttack, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, *vice* Mr. F. F. Handley.

In modification of the orders of the 13th instant Baboo Deno Nath De, Sub-Deputy Collector Howrah is allowed leave for 15 days under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave code, with effect from the 27th March last.

Mr. L. R. Forbes, Assistant Commissioner, Palamow, Lohardugga, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the First Grade of Assistant Commissioners.

Baboo Kali Nath Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Noakholly, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Dacca District.

Baboo Judoo Nath Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy collector, Shahabad, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Noakholly District.

Mr. H. W. Barber, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is appointed to have charge of the Cox's Bazar division of that district.

Mr. C. G. M. Shircore, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy collector, Dacca, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Furreedpore District.

Moulvie Abdool Wahab, Sub-Deputy Collector, on Noabad setlement duty, Chittagong, is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, and is posted to that district.

Baboo Kedar Nath Biswas, is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, and is posted to Hoogbly.

Baboo Chunder Nath Bose, M. A. and B. L., is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, and is posted to Dacca.

Mr. C. N. Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Chooadanga division of the Nuddea district, is transferred to the Sudder Station of that district.

Baboo Tarun Chunder Sarkar, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, Nuddea, is re-appointed to act until further orders, as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, and is appointed to have charge of the Chooadanga division of the Nuddea district.

Baboo Koomud Nath Mookerjee, Sub-Deputy Collector, Pooree, is appointed temporarily to be a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Seventh Grade, *vice* Baboo Sree Nath Bhudder, and is posted to Cuttack.

Baboo Kartick Chunder Roy Chowdry is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the First Grade, *vice* Baboo Koomud Nath Mookerjee, and is posted to Pooree.

Baboo Koilash Chunder Chatterjee is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector in Bhagulpore during the absence, on deputation, of Baboo Ram Narain Banerjee, or until further orders.

Baboo Peary Mohun Raha is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector in Furreedpore during the absence, on deputation, of Baboo Mohendro Chunder Mozumdar, or until further orders.

Moulvi Abdool Hye, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Begoo Serai, Monghyr, having assumed charge of his duties in the district of Jessore in the afternoon of the 23rd June 1876, the unexpired portion of the two months' privilege leave granted to him under orders of the 27th idem is cancelled.

The orders of the 25th January last, published in the *Calcutta Guzette* of the 30th idem, granting Baboo Jogesshur Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy collector, privilege leave for one month and fifteen days, are cancelled.

POLICE—Mr. T. C. Orr, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, Manbhoom, is transferred to the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The services of Mr. G. H. French, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Moorshedabad, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. Fagan, District Superintendent of Police, who reported his return from furlough on the 26th April last, is allowed subsidiary leave from that date to the 15th ultimo to enable him to join his appointment as Officiating Deputy Insqector-General of Police.

# Advertisements.

## Notice.

Tenders will be received by the undersigned at his office up to 1 P. M. on Friday the 14th of June 1878 for the supply and consolidation, during the ensuing rainy season, of 33,000 c. ft. (more or less) of stone metal on the Baripore Road and 13,200 c. ft. on the Bansdhanee Road near Gurrea.

Details regarding the quantities of metal to be supplied on the different miles and the distances of those miles from Gurrea, as well as all other informations on the subject are to be obtained by calling at the office of the undersigned daily between 11 A. M., and 5 P. M.

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A course of Theological Lectures will be commenced in connection with the Cathedral Mission College on Monday the 24th June.

Candidates are requested to apply to the Rev. E. K. Blumhardt, Christ Church Parsonage, Cornwallis Square, Calcutta.

## Notice.

Is hereby given that the nine Turrups forming the Purguna of Supur in Zillah Maunbhum Province Chota Nagpur under sanction of the Board of Revenue, and in satisfaction of decrees of the Civil Court will be put up one by one to public auction subject to the provisions of Act X. of 1877 (Civil Procedure) at the Cutchery of the undersigned at noon on Monday the 15th day of July 1878. Each of these Turrups now forms a separate estate with a separate Government Demand. The entire Purguna is leased on ezara to Messrs. Gisborne and Company. The present annual payment by the ezaradars will be increased on the expiration of certain assignments.

Full particulars of the Government demand, of the terms of sale and of the Izara can be obtained on application to the undersigned.

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*District of Maunbhum Deputy Commissioner's Office,*
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## Notice.

Arriving in column 3 of p. 240 of the *Hindoo Patriot* dated 27th May 1878, my venerable friend Babu Shamachurn Sirkar was, a-wise, interviewed by me. The last visit which we each other had had was, in the scene of "Dhurm Rukhonee Sobha" where he was placed in the left hand side of the late Raja Kalikrishna Deb Bahadoor, and I was on the right. In that interval, I was directed to give a trial of a Goojratee Dundee. Questions of Physicalnature, and of linggasereer were agitated, victory proceeded to me. Dundee put a pinch of Dust, say Beebhootee on my forehead and the Raje a String of white flour on my neck, eventually he was allowed to stand in commencing upon the giving of Lectures.

Having thus related about our last audience I now come to join with the Reporter of *Patriot* that Babu Shama Churn's revised volumes of Mc.Naghten's Law, and the other volumes, now under notice, are not only much creditable to his intelligence but the work is too intricate, by the amalgamation of Bevashtas with a multifarious languages. The Babu appears to have a fair claim of the public indulgences, so that, the late most renowned Babu Prossonno Coomar Tagore had laid out an ample sum of monies to print many volumes but they are left a-mute by being dependents of Native Pundits for their expression and explanation, the above volumes will perhaps, not await the assistance of a-one.

KALEEPUD GHOSAL.

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LORD LYTTON G.M.S.I.,
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